



Enlightenment
found at Bodhi
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Time crunch for
48-hour films
Pages 12-13



One sky, two standards

Beijing had 146 "blue sky days" during the first half of the year, which means residents breathed in fewer pollutants than any time in the last nine years, according to data released this week by the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau.

However, a private air quality report released by the air monitoring station in the US embassy suggests a less positive record. See why on Page 9



Photo by Yi Hao

Transformers'
smash up a
source of fury

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Ministry halts roll out of Green Dam Internet filter

By Wang Yu

Mandatory installation of Green Dam, a government-backed filtering software for computers, has been delayed, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said at a press conference Tuesday.

Initial rules required all computers manufactured or sold after July 1 to come with the software. Installation was postponed due to some computer manufacturers' demands for extra time to handle bulk installation on existing stock. "We will continue seeking opinions to perfect the plan," the ministry's spokesman said.

Though the plan for end user PCs has been delayed, computers in schools and Internet cafes are already equipped with the filter. Free downloads of Green Dam will continue to be available to parents who want to control how much time their children spend online

and protect them from violent or pornographic imagery.

Zhao Huiqin, president of Jinhui Computer System Engineering Company, developer of Green Dam, said the software has become more popular with parents since the ministry announced its plan. An average of 100,000 users install the software every day, with the peak day reaching 400,000 downloads.

Ministry statistics showed the software was downloaded 7.17 million times as of the end of last month. Another 2.62 million computers in schools and 4.7 million in Internet cafes are also using Green Dam.

However, the installation plan has been criticized by netizens since its announcement. Some said the government-backed software may harm users' privacy. The ministry responded that PC makers are only required to pro-

vide the Green Dam installation file on the hard disk of a new computer or accompanying CD-ROM: the user can decide whether or not to install it.

The ministry also denied security problems in Green Dam.

The government was also criticized for paying 41.7 million yuan to Jinhui for a year of service, which some viewed as unfair to competing filter packages. "There are many similar products on the market, and even Windows Vista has the function built in, so why should taxpayers pay for this one? It is also unfair to consumers who do not have kids," said Yu Muzhan, a finance and economic critic in Shanghai.

"I think the postponement of the installation plan shows the government is paying more attention to the Internet backlash to this policy. I downloaded Green Dam and tested it on my com-

puter. I have to say, those who said it would cause trouble when visiting some legal Web sites lied, and they probably never tested it. It is not sensitive at all to blocking pornographic pictures from what I saw," said Vincent Wen, a software engineer who works at an American IT company.

Other experts said such filter software is a kind of spyware. It is also very hard to maintain blocking functions without disturbing users' regular use if the developers hope to blackhole every porn site in the world.

"I think it also betrays the lack of sex education in China. Kids have to search online to find answers to adolescent curiosities. The best method to protect kids may be at the source, classifying types of online content rather than installing a controversial filter on every computer," said Kyle Zhao, a doctoral student in Australia.

Antique seller sues police over obscenity label

By Jin Zhu

Many of Beijing's antiques dealers are shelving their antique porn after one woman was punished with three days of administration detention.

Yang Hua, a merchant, was arrested by officers from the Guangnei local police box on March 12 in Xuanwu District. She was charged with selling an ancient mirror with pornographic drawings at the Baoguosi Antique Market, which police deemed "obscene."

After she was released, Yang filed a lawsuit against the Xuanwu Public Security Bureau seeking to have the charge repealed.

"I have been slapped with a criminal record. This is the only way to restore my name," she said.

Xuanwu District People's Court heard the case on June 19, but as of press time the verdict remained pending.

Yang said she bought the mirror at an antique market in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, two years ago.

"I believed it was an antique with high artistic value, not an obscene article," she said.

Panjiayuan Antique Market, a competing venue, specifically approves the sale of antiques bearing pornographic imagery, which it says are art "with considerable collectible value" — as long as the piece can be verified authentic.

"Many customers I spoke to heard about Yang Hua's arrest and said the pictures carried a high cultural and collectible value. There is no reason to ban their trade," Hu Xiaoqian, an antiques lover, said.

"Yang Hua's case is not an isolated instance. Many merchants coming from other places kept quiet about their arrests to avoid making trouble," said Xuan Ying, secretary-general of Bronzeware Committee of Ministry of Culture Art Ware Appraisal Committee.

"As an important part of China's ancient culture, pornographic pictures are common on antiques. However, many related books and antiques have been lost or have gone without protection for years," he said.

"Police certainly have the right to punish people involved in illegal trade, but experts must be called to judge whether or not these antique articles are obscene," he said.

is twice the average in the US.

On January 1 this year, China raised the gasoline consumption tax from the previous 0.2 yuan per liter to 1 yuan per liter and diesel consumption tax from 0.1 yuan per liter to 0.8 yuan per liter and annulled six types of fees on road maintenance and management, to enable drivers to pay less as they drive.

(Xinhua)

School closed, students found with A/H1N1

A Beijing primary school was closed after seven students were confirmed infected with A/H1N1 flu Wednesday, the municipal health bureau announced late that evening.

A total of 154 students, teachers and parents who had close contact with the seven students are under observation.

Beijing reported 21 confirmed A/H1N1 cases Wednesday, the largest in one day, bringing the city's total to 155 as of 10 pm Wednesday.

(By Han Manman)

CFP Photo



Drivers pay more at the pump than in US

The government's latest gas price hike has left many drivers grumbling at the pump as it brings domestic fuel prices into line with rising international crude costs.

Critics say the record domestic prices are even higher than those paid by drivers in the US.

The 9 to 10 percent mandated price hike on gasoline and diesel that took effect on June 30 — the second hike in a month — forced motorists to pay more than 20 yuan per gallon, compared to an average 18 yuan per gallon in the US last week.

According to a survey conducted by Web portal Sina.com, 94.3 percent of 260,000 respondents said the fuel prices rose too high.

"We have to pay one-eighth more than US consumers, but

we earn only one-fifth of their income. This is really confusing," said a netizen from Guangdong Province.

"Why is it so easy to see a domestic price rise when international prices rally, but so hard to see a price cut when global prices fall?" asked another from Sichuan Province.

Zhou Ruohong, chief analyst with the consultant branch of the China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec), the top refiner, told Xinhua Tuesday that the 600 yuan per ton increase is still too low, according to how prices are currently fluctuating.

Under the mechanism introduced in December, the National Development and Reform Commission may adjust fuel prices

when crude changes more than 4 percent over 22 consecutive working days.

By this rule, domestic prices should still rise another 1,000 yuan per ton. Refiners still face cost pressure, Zhou said.

Sinopec said May 22 that it will lose money turning oil into fuel if the international crude price exceeds US \$60 per barrel and the Chinese government holds down domestic retail prices.

China's producer price index (PPI), the inflation gauge at the wholesale level, fell for four straight months before May, which gave the government room to raise its price.

Yu Chunmei, analyst with the Shenyin and Wanguo Securities, said the prices could increase 400

yuan per ton at the end of July to prevent refiners losing money.

She predicted the domestic prices will change frequently in the future as international prices fluctuate.

As consumers questioned the widening gap with US fuel prices, experts held a different view.

"Fuel prices between the two nations are incomparable because of their different composition," said Lin Boqiang, director of the China Center for Energy Economics Research at Xiamen University.

According to the new rules, fuel prices take into account crude prices, taxes and a profit margin for refiners.

Lin cited the increased fuel consumption tax in China, which

Gymnasts still investigated for falsifying age

By Venus Lee

The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) is still investigating Chinese medalists Yang Yun and Dong Fangxiao, who won at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, for a possible age violation, according to Xinhua.

Yang and Dong were members of the bronze medal-winning team at the Olympics, where Yang also won the bronze on the uneven bars.

Allegations that the two were underage in Sydney surfaced during the 2008 Olympics. Yang, who is now married to world and Olympic champion Yang Wei, said in a television interview that she was 14 during the 2000 Olympics.

She later said it was a slip of the tongue. Dong, who served as an official in the Beijing Olympics, reportedly filled out a credentials application with a birthdate that would have made her too young to compete in Sydney.

The federation announced on its official Web site that the statute of limitations had not yet expired in the cases of the gymnasts, and it will continue a "full investigation" into whether either was younger than the minimum age of 16.

The National Gymnastic Center of the State Sport General Administration verified that it received an official letter from the General Association of International Sports Federations

(GAISF) and promised to cooperate with the FIG to uncover the ages of the two medalists.

"We do not know the exact date GAISF officials will come to China, but we will communicate with FIG and cooperate in their investigation," said Lu Shanzhen, head coach of the women's gymnastic team.

Lu said Yang and Dong have retired from the national gymnastics women's team, but the administration already has FIG information on the athletes, including identification papers, history, telephone numbers and their relatives' contact information.

Yang said she hopes the investigation will not disturb her private

life. She is currently pregnant. "I have put all my focus on my family since retiring from the national team several years ago. It was a shock that the FIG wants to investigate me now, but if necessary, I will cooperate," she said.

If found to have been underage, Yang would be stripped of her bronze. The entire Chinese team of six could also lose its medals if any two members are found to have been wrongly awarded. She said her age was correct on her Olympic registration papers.

Age falsification has been a problem in gymnastics since the 1980s, when the minimum age for competitors was raised from 14 to 15 to protect young athletes from

serious injury. The minimum age was raised again to 16 in 1997.

The FIG Executive Committee established a Disciplinary Commission last month, to be chaired by Rached Gharbi (Tunisia), along with Margarida Dias Ferreira (Portugal) and Marc Schoenmaekers (Belgium). "The commission is requested to examine the case and draw its own conclusion as to whether or not the age limit was violated. If affirmed, the Disciplinary Commission will propose sanctions to the Executive Committee," the FIG stated.

The commission is expected to announce its decision to the FIG Executive Committee meeting in Lausanne in September.

Tone-deaf singer survives to new Super Girl's top 10

By Wang Yu

Super Girl, the idol competition and cultural phenomenon from 2005, is in the limelight, once again for promoting singers whom critics say cannot sing.

The show last made headlines in 2005 with its controversial choice of the androgynous Li Yuchun as the competition's winner. When a sequel series was delayed in 2006, much of the core audience drifted from Hunan TV to other networks.

However, viewers began tuning back in when 19-year-old Zeng Yike was caught in the crossfire of two judges last week.

Shen Lihui, lead singer of rock band Sober and founder of Modern Sky Records, pushed for Zeng to be accepted into the show's final 20 contestants. Taiwanese producer Bao Xiaobo responded by walking out on the show and saying he would have no part in a program that insists on carrying someone as "unqualified" as Zeng.

With a guitar in her arms, Zeng proudly declared that all her songs were original compositions. Unfortunately, in these compositions, she was barely able to carry a tune on stage and often forgot the words to each song.

However, Shen praised her compositions and said Zeng had the "purest" voice he had heard at the competition.

Since Bao's sudden abandonment of the program, clips of Zeng singing have been among the most popular on video sharing Web sites. She has been described as the next "hype idol" after Li Yuchun.

But many listeners are not buying the promotion. Viewers criticized Zeng's singing and guitar technique, and contributors to the human flesh search engine discovered that her father was the director of a Hunan cigarette factory and was good friends with the director of Hunan TV. The station denied any connection, saying Zeng's father is a "normal civil servant in a college who lives with his wife, a doctor."



Zeng Yike

CFP Photo

"I think the Zeng phenomenon highlights a difference in attitudes between record companies as to what should be promoted, and what the modern music industry should sound like," said Ding Taisheng, market manager of Modern Sky.

Zeng showed no signs of improvement during the top 10 round of the competition last weekend, this time forgetting her lyrics and standing silent on the stage.

"There are no fixed standards to judge a singer's composition or performance. The native music industry may be more focused on Zeng's compositions, which it finds fresh and different from the canned crap coming down the pipeline. I can't say she's a qualified singer, but I certainly find her music unique," Ding said.

"I think this it's more than Shen just protecting Zeng as a singer. He's fighting for his idea of original music. Lots of similar singers are stuck outside the industry, which churns out a stream of beautiful pop princesses and idols," Zhu Yanfeng, producer of Enlight Media, said.

Whether or not Zeng makes it to the next round, she has succeeded in getting her name out. "But the real winner is the TV station, who successfully used her to bring itself back to center stage," Su Yi, a freelance entertainment writer, said.

Cost cutting causes Shanghai building collapse

A nearly-finished 13-story apartment building in Shanghai's Lotus Riverside complex collapsed Saturday, killing one worker. The complex was praised for its quality in 2007 by construction quality supervision authorities.

A project supervisor said Tuesday that cost-cutting practices may have played a role in the collapse.

A report from the investigation team showed that workers dug an underground garage on one side of the building, which left a 10-meter-high mound of soil on the opposite side — an apparent error in construction.

Chief director of Shanghai Guangqi Construction Supervision, the project supervisor, said it is common for devel-

opers to leave such mounds since removal costs 6 to 7 million yuan, *China Youth Daily* reported.

However, the soil mound was not the sole cause of the collapse. Many other factors, such as the distance between the building and the riverbank and problems with a nearby flood-prevention wall, may have played a role, the head supervisor said.

Shanghai authorities said Tuesday they are investigating the identities of the building's shareholders.

Media reported that several shareholders in Shanghai Meidu Real Estate are government officials.

The property development company was operated by Meilong Township from 1995 to 2001, when according to official records it went private.

Que Jinde, former chairman of the company, is assistant chief of the township government and holds a 15 percent stake in the company. Other shareholders also work in the township's government agencies.

Examination of the building's foundation and structure will be finished Thursday, the Minhang district information office said.

More than 380 homeowners demanded refunds or compensation, and the district government pledged to protect the legitimate rights and interests of the owners.

The developer was banned from selling housing after the collapse. It already sold 489 of 629 units.

The Shanghai municipal government ordered a sweeping quality inspection of buildings and infrastructures under construction on Tuesday.

(By Han Manman)



A survey of the collapsed building is due today.

CFP Photo



The poster features a vibrant, abstract design with swirling red and orange flames. Several tennis players are depicted in dynamic poses, appearing to emerge from the flames. The background is dark, making the bright colors of the flames and players stand out.

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Jackson made his only trip to Chinese mainland 22 years ago.

Michael Jackson matters to China

Music legends such as Elvis Presley, John Lennon and Bob Marley leave behind a legacy and an influence. So it is for Michael Jackson who died June 26. "Although the average American pop star goes largely unknown in China, Michael Jackson really mattered to China," a Chinese fan said online.

Only trip to the mainland

Jackson, dubbed the King of Pop, died from cardiac arrest due to an unknown cause at age 50. His Chinese fans regret he never held a concert on the mainland; 22 years ago, the singer set foot on China for the first time when he visited Zhongshan, Guangdong Province, during a holiday in Hong Kong. That was to be his first and last trip to the mainland.

Liu Guangzhi, who now lives in the US, welcomed Jackson and his group to Zhongshan on October 23, 1987. He was the best English tour guide the city had to offer.

He remembers Jackson wearing a dark green coat, slim black pants and huge black-framed sunglasses. He thought the pop star had a calm and friendly nature.

"He was deeply fascinated with the paddy fields, water buffaloes, ducks in the ponds and the peaceful villages along the road, as well as the farmhouses that looked more than a hundred years old," Liu told reporters, adding that the kindness of the rural residents and their simple lifestyle seemed to have appealed to Jackson.

"While he was walking on the blue slate road in Yongmo village, he looked curiously at the infants in their mother's arms, greeted the kids in the village and had photos taken with old ladies," Liu said.

Two photographs of Jackson with the kids of Yongmo later appeared in

his autobiography.

As part of the tour, the singer also stopped by Cuiheng village in Nanlang town to visit Sun Yat-sen's former residence and the Guangdong Sun Yat-sen Memorial Middle School.

Before he came to China, Jackson did not know much about the Kuomintang leader. "In Sun's former residence, he showed interest in Chinese architecture. He asked me about Sun's life story and seemed to admire him," Liu said.

A picture of Sun wearing a "Chinese tunic" also aroused the artist's curiosity and he inquired about its origin and design. "It is said he commissioned tailors to design some 'Chinese tunics' for him when he returned to Hong Kong, and took the suits back to the US," Liu said.

The tour guide soon received a copy of the Jackson group's photographs. "After he returned to Hong Kong, he commissioned his agent to mail me a group photo of us, which he signed," Liu said, adding that he was touched by the star's gesture.

The photographs include those of Jackson with the children and the elderly in Yongmo, which Liu later brought back to the village. The images are prominently displayed in village houses.

"That was a beautiful memory and Jackson captured it for us. Although he is gone, we can look at the photos and recall him," Liu said.



ICPhotos

At the scene Fans mourning for the King of Pop

Like the rest of the world, Jackson's Chinese fans were shocked at the news of his death.

In Beijing, a memorial was held last Friday at the Houhai restaurant and bar area. Hundreds of fans showed up in black and held a candlelight vigil. Some came with flowers and hand-made gifts. Candles forming the words "I love MJ" shone brightly as "Heal the World," one of Jackson's greatest hits, filled the air.

Some Beijing record stores have already run out of the pop star's albums and are waiting for

new shipments.

In Shanghai, another memorial was held last Saturday in a bar downtown, which drew several hundred fans.

"He has been my idol for 15 years and it was him who led me to my lover. When I first heard the news online, I could not believe it. Even now I still cannot accept it," a man in his 30s said.

"My greatest regret is that Michael Jackson never came to China to hold even one show," a woman said.

In ballrooms in Guangzhou,

impersonators performed dance moves that the artist popularized. Other people screened their Michael Jackson video collection on big projectors inside bars.

Headlines such as "Michael Jackson Passed Away" dominated Chinese newspapers over the weekend. Besides special reports, columnists also vied with one another to pay tribute to the King of Pop. "From now on, no thrilling legend exists on earth," one columnist said.

(Agencies)

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Why China is behind in going global

'Buy Pierre Cardin' renews concerns about foreign acquisitions

By Huang Daohen

A lack of executives with multi-cultural knowledge and experience managing foreign employees is a big problem for Chinese companies looking to acquire ailing multinationals, US consulting firm McKinsey said in a recent report.

But what if the company buys an overseas brand within China?

McKinsey said the answer may remain the same. On June 29, a group of domestic companies were reported to be in talks to buy the French fashion giant Pierre Cardin. The news started a new round of discussions over companies wanting to go abroad using mergers and acquisitions (M&A).

But the biggest question is, Why is China still behind in going global?

To buy or not to buy is always the question Chinese companies face with when going abroad through an acquisition.

CFP Photo

Buy Pierre Cardin

"Many Chinese only have three images of France: the Eiffel Tower, General de Gaulle and Pierre Cardin," said the Shanghai-based *Xinmin Daily* in a report on the Pierre Cardin acquisition.

The French fashion maker said Monday it will sell part of its business in China to some Chinese companies.

"It is true. Cardin is considering selling its China and overall global brand," the company's chief representative in China Fang Fang said.

The company arrived in China in 1978 and was among the first Western fashion houses.

"We are not in talks with only one company. We are now in talks with quite a few interested parties, not necessarily Chinese companies," she said.

The *Shenzhen Commercial Daily* said Monday the Jiansheng Trading Company in Guangdong Province had offered 1.9 billion yuan to acquire the brand.

The newspaper quoted Jiansheng executives as saying they hoped a deal could be completed within a month.

Fang refused to confirm the names of the Chinese bidders, but said a joint bid between two companies from Guangdong and Zhejiang had been made.

"This is the price that reports are saying they offered," Fang said. "Other bidders have offered higher and lower prices."

Jiansheng officials were unavailable for immediate comment. But Liu Jianxue, president of the company, denied that he was in discussions with Pierre Cardin for a possible takeover, *Guangzhou Daily* reported Tuesday.

"This article is wrong. If we had such a project, we would have made a formal announcement," Liu said.

Acquisition, a shortcut for buyers

Though confusion continues to mount over the fate of Pierre Cardin's fashion empire, there are plenty of buyers – domestic Pierre Cardin agents – vying for the brand.

"Of course, senior agents who have had a long-term cooperation with Pierre Cardin will take priority," the fashion firm's Beijing Office said in a statement. These include potential buyers Guangzhou Jian-

sheng Trading Company, Cardanro and Zhejiang Babei Clothing Company.

Pierre Cardin's senior agents in China include 24 companies selling a variety of its products, including clothing, watches and towels. Babei, the country's top tie maker based in Shengzhou, Zhejiang Province, became a Pierre Cardin agent 10 years ago. It was commissioned to make ties and turbans only.

"I got a call from Pierre Cardin's China office, asking if I was interested in acquiring the company," Jin Yao, manager of Babei said, "I heard in 2005 Pierre Cardin was going to sell its China company, and this year it finally came true."

In the past two months, Pierre Cardin has been negotiating with Chinese companies for the sale of the commission of 32 products, and will soon sign contracts.

Jin was among the first agents to get the information from Pierre Cardin. "As an agent with long-term cooperation, I have a deep understanding of the brand. It will be good for us if we are able to acquire some of the company's business," he said.

The acquisition, if it succeeds, would be a shortcut for the company to enter the international market, he said. "This helps to save us time, which is very important."

Jin said he sent a company official to France to negotiate details of the acquisition.

Many rumors are afloat. Some say the price of Pierre Cardin's leather products and shoe business totals 2.9 billion yuan. But the price for its clothing business remains unknown. Earlier, Pierre Cardin himself told media, "The asking price is € 1 billion (9.6 billion yuan). If buyers can't afford it, it's their problem, not mine. I'm not short of money."

Wen Yijun, industrial analyst with Oriental Securities, said the deal will face difficulties. "We still don't know if Pierre Cardin is going to sell the whole company or part of its business. If it is going to sell some of its business, the problem will be even bigger, because the Pierre Cardin brand will be damaged if its sub-brands are not properly handled after they are sold."

Though Pierre Cardin officials in Beijing refused to reveal the buyers, it is reported that some other Wenzhou-based companies are teaming up to bid.

Analyst

Is a global M&A the right way?

Domestic companies, many virtually unknown outside China, are reaching for opportunities in overseas markets amidst the current economic downturn. But, is a global M&A the right way for a company to become a multinational?

Experts said the global economic crisis has given Chinese companies an ideal opportunity to go global.

"Though going abroad in these conditions may not seem easy, the growth opportunities of the crisis are obvious," said Zhao Xiao, an academic at a local university who has followed the development of Chinese enterprises for many years.

Zhao's prescription for Chinese companies is clear: innovation, global experience and soft skills.

Innovation

Zhao suggested that companies should make more efforts to innovate: playing copycat will not result in sustained growth.

"Even though mere imitation may bring in some substantial short-term profits, companies need to enhance their ability to innovate," he said.

Zhao said that innovation is time-consuming. But as a player in a commercial market, a company needs to pay that cost to develop its core technology, he said.

Voice

Amazed at companies' performance

We're amazed at the Chinese companies' financial capability and their ambition to tap the world market.

Over the past several years, these companies have acquired a dozen Italian garment brands which will help them to continue their performance in this sector.

Therefore, it is no shock that a Chinese company wants to acquire Pierre Cardin's garment brand as Chinese companies have performed excellently in this sector for dozens of years.

— Charles-Edouard Boue, regional coordinator, Asia, Roland Berger Strategy Consultants, Greater China

It's a fading brand today!

I'm personally moved by these Chi-

nese companies' decision and encouragement to purchase this brand and continue the legacy of Pierre Cardin.

Global experience

Chinese companies' lack of global experience will be a hindrance. Zhao said half of the executives had no cross-cultural training and they would not accept a foreign assignment.

By contrast, multinationals based in developed countries often make such postings a must for career advancement.

Many Chinese companies have started to deal with this lack of global experience by sending their best managers to intensive management-training programs.

Soft skills

Along with experience, Zhao said Chinese managers must learn to delegate, to coach and to have difficult conversations with colleagues. These soft skills, increasingly important as an organization expands across the globe, are generally underused and underappreciated in local business culture.

"In the long run, M&As are beneficial to the healthy growth of Chinese companies," Zhao said, "Merging and becoming part of the global economy to increase mutual reliance through cooperation is much safer than being isolated."

But the brand has had a long history and is fast fading. It has some financial problems that need to be solved. You need a long term plan, huge effort and investment to save it. New brands are emerging every day.

— Jorg Wuttke, president, European Union Chamber of Commerce in China

Not the whole business

For many Chinese companies, buying the whole of Pierre Cardin, including its business in Europe, is not a realistic option, due both to the lack of cash and inability to deal with the European end of the business.

— Zhang Xiaofei, clothing businessman (By Zhao Hongyi)

Transformers 2, a film that insults China?



Comment

Cons

Some netizens are not happy with the movie because Shanghai appeared shabby in it, which they think is not an accurate representation of the city.

They also think the scene of bombings in Shanghai was an insult to China. They think the movie intentionally tries to make the country look ugly. The distributor said it can cut these scenes from its China release version in consideration of box office earnings.

Some people say this is not acceptable. As long as "Shabby Shanghai" in *Transformers 2* is seen by people all over the world, it is a big insult to the country, they say. These people are asking that those scenes be permanently cut.

Pros

Aren't some people overreacting to this science-fiction movie? They cannot even stand an old house being smashed! Aren't they being too sensitive?

Shanghai is the top city in China. But like many other cities, it has run-down sections; there are small rugged alleys under grand viaducts.

Is it only by filming prosperous areas and ignoring shabby places that we say China is not being insulted?

The rational response would be to face the distasteful reality and try our best to rebuild and improve our cities. Forbidding others to talk about our deficiencies and pretending to be perfect while we are not is only fooling ourselves.

(Source: ifeng.com)

Expert

More positive Chinese image in Western movies

In recent decades, an increasing number of Chinese cultural images – people, buildings or communities – have appeared in many Hollywood movies, portraying the country in both positive and negative lights.

In *Freaky Friday* for example, a mother swaps bodies with her daughter because of magic hidden in fortune cookies, which they got from a Chinese restaurant.

There's also a controversial line in *The Da Vinci Code*, in which a bank manager says his wristwatch is fake, one he bought from a Chinese vendor. "Fake products are made in China" is already a stereotype.

However, with the passage of time and the country's increasing influence on the world stage, Westerners' stereotypes of China are dwindling. We expect to see more positive Chinese cultural images in Western movies, especially ones from Hollywood.

— Yang Hui, professor at the Beijing Film Academy

Background

"Demonized" Chinese

The Opium War in the 19th century was a critical juncture in how the Western media began portraying the Chinese people. Following China's defeat in the war, the media exposed the corruption and excesses of the Chinese government and highlighted the ugly side of the Qing Dynasty.

China kept losing in succeeding wars and the breakdown of the country's economic system led rural residents to seek work in North America. The first Chinese migrants were hired to build railways. After construction was finished, they flooded the labor market. Being low-paid workers, they were favored for jobs over North Americans and European migrants.

Around this time, a variety of anti-Chinese novels and movies appeared. The first movie of its kind was *Broken Blossoms*, which told of a good Chinese immigrant who smoked opium as a hobby.

After the film did well in the box office, other movies appeared that were set in Chinatown such as *Old San Francisco*. But the stories still associated the Chinese with opium, crime and poverty.

Debate of the week

Hospital dumps 6 aborted fetuses

A hospital in Hubei Province dumped six aborted fetuses and the bodies of two people at a construction site, *China Daily* said.

The fetuses, the two adult bodies and a bag containing three limbs from other people were found Tuesday by a worker at a construction site in Xiangfan, Hubei, the news paper reported.

A spokesman for Xiangfan Central Hospital, whose logo was on the bag, told the paper its morgue staff buried the bodies and the fetuses at the site May 19. One of the people died in January and the other in March, but no one claimed their bodies, the newspaper said.

The country has no laws or regulations stipulating how to handle unclaimed bodies, Tan Xiaodong, a professor with the school of public health at Wuhan University in Hubei, told *China Daily*.

The report said there have been increasing accounts of hospital morgues in the country holding too many bodies, and that hospitals in Hubei normally dispose of bodies after permission from the local public security and health departments. It did not say if Xiangfan hospital had broken any rules.

Reached by phone, the hospital said Xiangfan's press office was handling the case. That office did not have any immediate comment.

Police detains man over ethnic brawl

Police in Guangdong Province have detained a man accused of spreading rumors of rape over the Internet, which sparked a deadly ethnic brawl at a toy factory during the weekend.

Xinhua News Agency reported late Sunday that the man, a former worker at the Xuri toy factory in Shaoguan city, posted a message on a local Web site claiming six Xinjiang men raped two women at the factory.

Police said the unfounded claim was behind the massive Friday night brawl between a group of Han Chinese and Uyghur workers from Xinjiang who were recently hired by the factory. Two of the Xinjiang men were killed and 118 people were injured in the violence that lasted until early morning, Xinhua reported.

The brawl was an outburst of long-standing tensions between Hans and Uyghurs, a largely Muslim ethnic group with a language and culture close to the Turkic peoples of central Asia.

The man, surnamed Zhu, faked the information to express his frustration over failing to find new work after quitting his job at the factory, Xinhua said. The brief report did not say what crime he has been accused of.

(Agencies)

By Huang Daohen

The Hollywood film *Transformers 2*, being screened nationwide, upset some viewers – not because it was a waste of two and a half hours – but because its opening scene was "an insult to China."

In the scene, the Autobots and the Decepticons throw numerous bombs at each other as they battle in a run-down part of Shanghai. The scene was shot in an abandoned steel mill in Pennsylvania, US.

Minutes later in the film, a US military commander yells that somebody is not happy about the fight. "Not after all the damage done in Shanghai," he says.

Last Friday, a list of the movie's pros and cons was posted on the China Web site of Hong Kong-based Phoenix TV, which said it conducted an online poll about the US \$200 million (1.4 billion yuan) Hollywood production.

Some viewers also criticized the scene in which robots smash through a Chinese house filled with antique furniture.

An official at United International Pictures, the film's distributor, declined to comment on the issue.

China was the third-biggest grossing non-US territory for director Michael Bay's first *Transformers*, with box office receipts of 276 million yuan.



Many say this shabby scene of Shanghai in *Transformers 2* is an insult to China's image.

CFP Photos

US English program for migrants produces first graduates

By Venus Lee

Officers of the US Embassy, along with students and faculty of Bainian Vocational School (BNVS), cheered last Saturday the first graduates of the US State Department's English-language program.

Sun Qiangqiang was one of the 78 migrant students who recently finished the English Access Microscholarship Program. Because of poverty and disenchantment, the 18-year-old thought his formal

education would end in junior middle school. But the free program provided him with two years of English-language training and an opportunity to visit the US for three weeks of language classes.

"The program offered me the chance to learn English for free, while the school provided me the chance to learn practical skills which not only eased my family's financial burden but also made me more confident about my prospects

for the future," he said.

At the graduation ceremony, the students staged *Cinderella*, which was a hit with the audience. "Their acting was great. I was stunned they could speak such good English after only two years of study," said Damon Anderson, director of the embassy's English Language Program.

Chen Xue, an estate and hotel management major who played Cinderella, attributed her achieve-

ments to the program's volunteer teachers. "They told us to speak English with confidence. Through the help of songs, role-playing, games and movies, we overcame our shyness in speaking English," she said.

The program also taught the students how to build interpersonal relations and understand other cultures, said Teri Michele Tveten, one of the volunteer teachers from the US. "More impor-

tantly, it increased their chances of getting a good job," she said.

Yao Li, the school's principal, said all the students have already found employment.

BNVS, founded four years ago, is the first private, non-profit vocational school in China to provide free education to migrant youths in urban areas. In 2007, the US State Department partnered with it to implement the English Access Microscholarships Program.



A SWAN women empowerment program

Young activist seeks voice for Myanmar minority

By Han Manman

Twenty-eight-year-old Charm Tong is regarded as an enemy by Myanmar's junta but a "candle in the dark" by her fellow citizens.

This vivacious woman does not fit the stereotype of a "strong political advocate" for ethnic minority rights and democracy in the military-run nation formerly called Burma. Yet, she is one of the few who can get the international community to sit up and take notice of the Southeast Asian country.

Though her formal education ended in middle school, she has since received a slew

of awards and recognitions: She was one of four international activists under 30 to be given the Reebok Human Rights Awards in 2005; the same year, she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and was named one of Asia's Heroes by Time magazine.

Charm Tong, a member of Myanmar's Shan minority, is now appealing to Chinese investors to stop the construction of several hydropower dams in the country's minority areas, which will endanger indigenous culture and force residents from their homes.

Dams threaten minorities' existence

"I come from an ancient land, Yin Ta Lai, where people co-exist with nature. Our life depends on the sacred Salween River. But my father tells me soon the Burmese government will dam our river and our way of life. If the dam were to be built, all our land will be submerged, and the Yin Ta Lai will be no more," a little Myanmar girl says in a documentary produced by the Karenni Research Development Group.

The film, shown to *Beijing Today* by Charm Tong, gives a rare glimpse of the remote center of Karen state in the country's east, and the life of the Yin Ta Lai minority, of whom only 1,000 people remain. Footage depicts a distinct culture and a biodiverse rainforest that will disappear if the Salween hydropower dam is built.

"Burma is China's backyard, and its abundant resources have attracted more and more Chinese companies to come and invest," Charm Tong said, adding that some of the projects imperil minority culture. She appealed to investors to make a careful study of local situations before implementing projects.

In the past decade, at least 10 Chinese companies have been involved in an estimated 20 major hydropower projects in Myanmar – a big source of income for

the Myanmar government.

Aung Ngyeh, spokesperson of the Burma Rivers Network, said that while China has strict laws governing domestic dam-construction, these guidelines are not carried over abroad.

"We hope China will impose similar standards for its companies operating in Burma," Charm Tong said.

Lecturing the enemy

Charm Tong's path to activism began in an orphanage in Thailand.

When she was six, her parents put her on a donkey and sent her from the war-torn eastern Shan state, home to the country's biggest ethnic minority, to Thailand, where they hoped she could live in peace and get basic schooling – a privilege denied many Shan women.

She considers herself "very lucky" as she was taken to an orphanage in the Thai-Burma border in which she studied for nine years. Many of her peers were less fortunate; survival is top of the agenda for Myanmar refugees in Thailand and some became victims of human trafficking and the sex trade.

At 16, Charm Tong began volunteering with organizations that helped Myanmar refugees.

"I witnessed how refugees from Burma suffer – especially the Shan. They have escaped from killings, torture and persecution. They have lost their

land and belongings," she said.

International accolades soon followed, including a visit to the White House upon the invitation of then-President George W. Bush.

A life-long career

Since her UN speech, Charm Tong has traveled the world to speak of the violence and oppression the Myanmar people continue to endure. She co-founded the Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN) together with over 40 women, which attracted global attention in 2002 with its ground-breaking report "License to Rape," detailing rape cases against Myanmar military personnel.

Charm Tong's current work includes running a school in the Thailand-Burma border that is training a new generation of Myanmar people.

"The school trains them in English and computers, and also in human rights, democracy, the media, the environment and other skills that will help them work effectively with communities," she said.

Many of their graduates have become HIV/AIDS educators in migrant and refugee groups. Others work in women's organizations, the media and youth groups.

"This is a life-long career for me," Charm Tong said, adding that their students represent the hope for a democratic Myanmar.

Interview with *Beijing Today*

BT: What does the Chinese voice mean to you?

CT: People in Burma have no voice. But I believe your voice will help strengthen our voice and one day change the situation.

BT: Do you ever think about a peaceful life without any conflict, without the struggle for democracy?

CT: I'm also human and like other women, everyone wants a peaceful life in a peaceful society. But we have important things to do to change our people's life and situation.

BT: Have you seen your parents since you were separated from them when you were six?

CT: I saw my parents when they came to the Thai-Burma border some years ago. Shortly after that, my father passed away in 2004. So I don't have chance to get to know him anymore ... But many people who leave their land never see their parents anymore. Compared with them, I'm very lucky.

BT: Do you plan on doing this kind of work for the rest of your life?

CT: This is a life-long career for me. My students represent hope for the future, hope for a democratic Myanmar. I know I'm taking a risk. I don't know what will happen, but I know that we're trying to do our best to speak the truth and change the situation. No matter how difficult it is, we have to continue to do it.



Charm Tong

Photos provided by Charm Tong

EU companies optimistic but appeal for more transparency

By Zhao Hongyi

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China appealed to the Chinese government for a more free, fair and competitive business environment in its annual business confidence survey released Tuesday.

The poll shows 43 percent of EU enterprises in China believe protectionism, especially in provinces, is increasing. It comes in the form of discretionary enforcement of laws and regulations, discrimination against foreign firms and difficulty in obtaining business licenses. An adjustment of market operations toward openness, fairness and competitiveness is important, the report said.

About 30 percent of the companies expressed satisfaction with the enforcement of laws and regulations, particularly regarding intellectual property rights and the environment.

As for China's 4-trillion-yuan stimulus package, 62 percent

believe the plan is headed in the right direction but that more needs to be done.

"Growth of domestic consumption and greater transparency are the keys to combat the financial depression and for continued growth," Jorg Wuttke, the chamber's president, said at a media conference in which the survey was released.

"The financial crisis exposed the long-existing structural problems in the Chinese economy," said Charles-Edouard Bouee, Asian regional coordinator and managing partner of Roland Berger Strategy Consultants Greater China, one of the study's sponsors. "China needs to continue its economic reform with a longer-term view and find strong economic growing engines for the next 30 years."

Wuttke complained a week ago that foreign firms seemed to have been left out of the stimulus package. But the Chi-

nese government stated on several occasions that it does not discriminate between domestic and foreign enterprises.

About 70 percent of EU companies said the financial crisis did not hit them as hard as their European offices were hit; and that their revenues in 2008 saw an increase. They said the Chinese market is becoming increasingly important in the firms' global strategy and they are willing to invest more money and launch new products and services to support the Chinese government's aim to boost domestic consumption.

The report said an increasing number of these companies are shifting from export manufacturing to producing for the domestic market, particularly those in financial services and consumer goods. The firms are also trying to increase the number of their Chinese employees, but 68 percent said there is a lack of qual-

ified talents. Ninety-five percent expect labor prices to increase next year.

Around 46 percent believe the economic downturn will reverse within China in 2010, but 85 percent think China's economic growth will not be the engine to drive the world economy. "The US economy is still the world engine," Wuttke said.

Most EU firms prefer to operate independently, particularly those involved in industrial goods and services. Those in the finance and consumer goods and services sector are trying to remain independent, but Chinese laws say they have to work with local partners.

Over 300 companies participated in the survey - from giant multinationals to small private enterprises. The chamber will present the survey to EU member-states, government agencies and business organizations in China and Europe.

US Embassy 'tweets' air quality reports

By Venus Lee

The US Embassy has set up an air quality monitoring station and its readings are published on Twitter every hour.

The embassy opened the station in spring to record levels of fine particles dangerous to human health due to concern for its staff, spokesperson Susan Stevenson said.

The information is updated every hour on twitter.com/BeijingAir, a free social messaging site. Its reports sometimes differ from those issued by the municipality's Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau.

The bureau's report for June 18, when the sky was murky at noon, said "slightly polluted." BeijingAir's reading hovered around "hazardous" for seven hours.

In the face of discrepancies, some netizens have expressed doubts about the official data. But experts say stations' differing locations and standards can lead to disparate results.

Zhang Renhe, president of the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences, said monitoring stations should be evenly distributed throughout the city and should be located 50 meters away from pollutant sources.

Because the US Embassy is located in the Central Business District with heavy traffic and many constructions sites, air quality monitoring in the vicinity does not show the overall picture, Zhang said.

"It's the same as not putting a station near a chimney, otherwise the air quality reports will always say 'toxic.' The data issued by the US embassy cannot represent the air pollution level in Chaoyang district, let alone the entire Beijing area," he said.

Stevenson agrees. "The embassy's air monitoring station is a single site. It cannot be used to measure the air quality across the city. So they can't be compared," he said.

The environmental protection bureau has 27 monitoring stations across the city and releases average air quality data every day.

But no matter what experts say, the embassy's "tweets" have gained many "fans."

The US Environmental Protection Agency measures particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM2.5) that go into people's lungs and bloodstream when they breathe. Chinese regulations measure particles less than 10 micrometers (PM10), which can usually be expelled from the body by coughing.

Although Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau already measures PM2.5, it does not regularly release the data since it is not used to calculate the daily air pollution index. Government figures instead rely on three indices: PM10, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. The bureau said the government is now considering what standards to set for finer particles and the ozone.

Concert with Asia's Michael Jackson celebrates Sino-Philippine ties



Valenciano's spirited song and dance performances have earned him the title "Mr. Pure Energy."

Photo provided by Daniel Perez

By Zheng Lu

A free concert headlined by "Asia's Michael Jackson" was held last Sunday to mark 34 years of China-Philippine diplomatic relations.

Scores of Filipino and Chinese guests trooped to Star Live musical hall for Rhythms of Love and Friendship, which featured Gary Valenciano, one of the Philippines' singing stars who is renowned for his cool dance moves.

Filipinos in the audience shrieked and danced as the 44-year-old Valenciano hopped, rapped and crooned on stage. Most of his fans had never seen him in person much less stand

only meters away from him. "He is to Filipinos what Emil Chow is to us," a Chinese concert-goer said.

The artist, who has coped with diabetes since his teens, is an inspirational figure. He is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and was named one of the Philippines' Ten Most Outstanding Young Men in 2001.

In tribute to the millions of Filipinos working overseas to give their families back home a better life, Valenciano rendered a Filipino song called "You will return," which talks of finally coming home one day.

The singer said he was amazed at the strength of Sino-Philippine

ties and mentioned close Chinese friends. "I go to play basketball every Monday and often see and play with my Chinese-Filipino friends," he said.

Sonia Brady, the Philippine ambassador, said the two nations' ties have become stronger despite challenges. "We renew our commitment to bring this partnership to a higher level for the benefit of our two countries and peoples," she said, adding that the concert would be followed by a series of events that will culminate in the 35th diplomatic anniversary next year.

At the end of the concert, Valenciano sang two Michael Jackson songs in memory of

the King of Pop who died last Thursday and who inspired him as a performer. "I really feel like a part of me has also died. Those four words-Michael Jackson is dead-are a blow ... It's just starting to hit me now ... I don't know how long the pain would last," he told the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* newspaper from Beijing.

The concert, which featured a Chinese singer and three other Filipino artists, was organized by the Philippine Embassy, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Filipino Home Group of the Beijing International Christian Fellowship.

Musicians raise money for fellow artist's surgery



Beijing's local and expat bands gathering at Yugongyishan to raise funds for their photographer friend Luna Lu's surgery.

Photo by Song Nannan

By Wang Yu

At least 400 music fans gathered at Yugongyishan on Tuesday night to see the hottest local acts rock it for charity. The concert aimed to raise funds for the surgery of Luna Lu, a photographer who documented musical events and the life of musicians.

Lu suffers from Budd-Chiari Syndrome, caused by blood clots that block the large veins that carry blood from the liver to the heart, and is scheduled for surgery next week. She has been in hospital for three months, so her bills have mounted while she has no source of income.

"The surgery's total cost is around 70,000 yuan, which is a huge sum for an ordinary photographer. No one in these circles has health insurance, unlike those who have office jobs," said Feifei, keyboardist of reggae group Long Shen Dao, which organized the show.

A donation box was placed at the entrance

to the club. "As a long-time friend of Luna's, I believe I needed to be here to donate and show support," said Zhai Yi, a music writer who came over from Tianjin.

Lil Tiger, one of the top MCs in Beijing known for his rapping skills, sang a piece he wrote for Lu, "The Voice Far Away." "We are here, waiting for you to come back to us and enjoy the night," he said after his performance.

Miserable Faith, a metal band-turned-folk group, touched the audience with sentimental numbers.

Feifei only had a week to organize the event, but the artists made his work easy. "Each of them agreed to performance without hesitation." He announced the concert online only four days in advance, but word quickly spread through email, blogs and social networking sites.

"The audience was much larger than I expected. Usually, there aren't many people

here on a Tuesday night," Feifei said.

Muma and Third Party brought the house down; people jumped in time with the drummer's rhythm, while the guitarist mesmerized the audience with his fuzzy sounds.

"Although we're gathered to pray for our friend who is going through some of the most miserable days of her life, I hope everyone here will have a good time like we and Luna used to at rock shows. Let the music heal," lead singer Muma said.

It was midnight by this time and most people trooped out to get some sleep before work the next day. Those who remained sat on the floor listening to Canadian singer Ember Swift's unplugged music. Long Shen Dao performed the show's finale.

The concert raised around 25,000 yuan from ticket sales and donations. "This is the first charity concert I've ever organized and I'm so glad to see the passion for charity of young music lovers," Feifei said.

Event

Friday night Latin dance party

Meet new people, make new friends and learn Latin dance. No experience or dance partner required. The cost includes a cocktail and a dance lesson.

Where: Reform Exercise Therapy Studio, Love Dream Live 1984 Cafe, Room 732 and 737 Zone C, Chaowai SOHO, Chaoyang District

When: July 3, 7-10 pm

Tel: 5900 0369

Cost: 80 yuan

Don't Stop: Official Michael Jackson tribute night

From his time with The Jackson 5 to his top-selling album *Thriller*, Michael Jackson left an indelible mark on music history – and his death is a loss to all.

To honor the man, the music and the legend, Street Hustle is throwing a party. Don't Stop will feature DJ Spark, a long-time friend and follower of the King of Pop, spinning Michael's best all night long. There will also be Michael Jackson dance-off competitions and look-alike and costume contests.

Where: Club LA, 8 West Gate of the Workers Stadium, Chaoyang District

When: July 3, 10 pm – 8 am

Tel: 6552 6969; 8599 9999

Hilton kids cooking class

If your children love cooking, then sign them up for a kids' cooking class at the Hilton Beijing Wangfujing. A different recipe will be taught every week. Your children are guaranteed to have a blast turning the kitchen upside down. There will be plenty of tables for parents to sit and relax while sipping a cup of tea or coffee.

Where: Vasco's, Hilton Hotel, 8 Wangfujing Dong Jie, Dongcheng District

When: July 4, 3-5 pm

Tel: 5812 8888

Cost: 88 yuan

Electric Shadows films showcase

Electric Shadows is a multi-platform film and music venture established by Beijing-based artists, who aim produce and promote experimental film and music.

Where: Space for Imagination, 5 Xiwangzhuang Xiaoku, Shuangqing Lu, Haidian District

When: July 5, 3 pm

Tel: 6279 1280

Cost: 20 yuan

(By Chen Zao)

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Have a splashing summer

By Chen Zao

Beijing Today checks out four popular pools for this summer.

Water Cube

The Olympic Village Water Cube's warm-up pool is open to the public through October 1. Swimmers need to present their health cards. If they do not have one, they can take a health exam at the Water Cube to check their body temperature, blood pressure and heart rate. People also need to have a deep water swimming certificate to use the two-meter deep pool. Those who do not have it can take a test for 20 yuan.

Swimmers can only enter through the Water Cube's north-west gate.

Advantage: Water cleanliness is maintained according to international standards

Disadvantage: More expensive than other pools and does not have water game facilities

Where: Olympic Green, Beichen Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: Thursday-Sunday, 2-9 pm

Cost: 50 yuan for two hours

Tel: 8437 0112

Xiedao Sea View City Water Park

The water park houses the city's largest wave pool and a broad "beach" where people can play free of charge. Visitors can bring a volleyball, football, tent or beach umbrella.

This children's water paradise also has a water slide and a waterwheel.

Near the beach area is a barbecue and buffet service, but the cost is not covered by the admission ticket.

Advantage: Complete facilities, including hot water for showering

Disadvantage: Too crowded during holidays

Where: 1 Xiedao Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 9 am - 10 pm

Cost: 60 yuan for adults; 40 yuan for children

Tel: 8433 5608



Bi Sheng, 8 years old, was one of the first visitors to the Water Cube pool.

CFP Photo



Youth lake water park

Photo by Chen Zao

Youth Lake Water Park

The park, which is divided into northern and southern areas, has four outdoor pools with different depths, including a children's

wading pool.

Advantage: Convenient public transportation

Disadvantage: Does not have water game facilities for children

and hot water for showering

Where: Andingmen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 9 am - 5 pm

Cost: 20 yuan

Tel: 6841 1485

Tuanjiehu Water Theme Park

The park has a swimming pool, wave pool, a large water slide and one made of colorful marble. It also has children's castle and water slides and Coconut Island for kids.

Advantage: Complete facilities and ideal for children

Disadvantage: Too crowded during holidays

Where: 16 Tuanjiehu Nan Li, Chaoyang District

Open: 10:30 am - 7:30 pm

Cost: 20 yuan (Monday-Friday); 25 yuan on weekends

Tel: 6506 1364

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I'm looking for Indian spices. The selection in most stores is limited, not to mention expensive. Where can I buy authentic but reasonably priced spices?

Check out a small store on Sanlitun Bar Street. It's behind Yashow Market and looks like your average Chinese convenience store. It sells South Asian ingredients, including a host of spices from India and Pakistan.

You can also try Jenny Lou's grocery store. Its bottles of imported spices are quite pricey, but it also sells spices in bulk at cheaper prices.

Where: 6 Sanlitun Bei Xiaojie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6416 9281

Where: 4 Ritan Bei lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8563 0626

My friends are talking about visiting Dongjiao market. Where is it and what does it sell?

The market is known for selling items wholesale to hotels and restaurants. Kitchen supplies include rice cookers, coffeemakers, plates in a variety of shapes and colors, meat cutters and even huge sinks. It also sells bags, home decorations, office supplies, fabric, clothing, shoes, tea, fish, fruits, vegetables and flowers.

You'll need a few hours to get a good look at the place. Bringing children is not a good idea, but teenagers who love making great finds will have a blast. Patience is a must as this market is huge.

Vendors are not pushy unlike more touristy markets.

Where: 12 Dawang Lu (near The World Trade Center), Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 5 pm

(By Chen Zao)

Individual tickets for World Expo on sale

By Jin Zhu

"Individual" tickets to the Shanghai World Expo are available through December 31 at the expo's authorized agents China Mobile, China Telecom, China Post and Bank of Communications.

The world fair, which is scheduled to open May 1 next year, sells standard individual tickets at 140 yuan and peak day tickets at 180 yuan.

"Peak days are May 1 to 3, October 1 to 7 and October 25 to 31. The rest of the expo days are standard days," Chen Zuofu, ticketing center director of the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination.

"The price of both tickets will go up by 20 yuan when the expo opens."

Buyers will not be required to register their identification details and can buy as many tickets as they want, he said.

Discounted tickets for students, people 60 years or older and those



Expo tickets are now available to individual buyers.

CFP Photo

with disability will be on sale until the beginning of next year. Children below 1.2 meters tall will be admitted free of charge.

Chen urged the public to buy tickets only from authorized dealers, saying that genuine tickets have special markings that will easily tell them apart from fakes.

"Under ultraviolet light, the background of the words at the bottom of the ticket will appear golden. When you tilt the ticket 45 degrees, that area will turn green. When you put the ticket under a magnifying glass, the words 'Expo 2010' can be seen around the ticket's main design," he said.

China Mobile

Tickets are available at China Mobile business halls. Alternatively, buyers can SMS their name and address to 12580, and the tickets will be delivered to them for free.

China Telecom

Starting July 6, people can order tickets through telephone number 118114 or on Web site ex-po.118114.cn, and then pay online.

Purchasers will receive an "order number," which they should bring to designated business halls to collect their tickets.

China Post

China Post has designated 30 of its offices to sell tickets. People can also place an order through telephone number 11185.

Jiannei Post Office

Where: 18 Jiannei Dajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6519 6649

Shuangjing Post Office

Where: 48 Guangqulu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6771 6756

Wangfujing Post Office

Where: 45 Donganmen Dajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6512 9632

Bank of Communications

Twenty-six branches are authorized to sell tickets. Alternatively, buyers can order through telephone number 95559 or 400 8009 888. Tickets will be delivered; people who buy at least three tickets will get free shipping.

Hongmiao Branch

Where: 2 Xi Dawang Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6591 4350

Mianzidian Branch

Where: 4 Zaoying Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6593 5314

By He Jianwei

Creating a film in under 48 hours sounds impossible, but 11 teams did it as part of the 48 Hour Film Project, the world's largest timed filmmaking competition.

This year was the first time Beijing was tapped as one of the many cities to host a competition. Participants ran a sleepless weekend from June 19 to 21 to write, shoot, edit and score a film.

Last weekend, their submissions debuted to an audience at the Yan Club Arts Center. The organizer and participants hope to make the project an annual event.

The heat was tolerable outside but suffocating in the Yan Club Arts Center's main hall last Friday. It was the first night of screening of films created during Beijing's first 48 Hour Film Project.

The audience enthusiasm matched the temperature. Viewers applauded and screamed to cheer each submission.

The participants battled it out in a 48-hour competition to write, cast, shoot, edit and score a short film. To keep things fair, each team was given a character, a prop, a genre and a line of dialogue to include in its film.

For the Beijing competition, groups were required to incorporate a musician character named Ah Lei, a small bottle of Erguotou as a prop and the line of dialogue "Kan da shan," roughly translated as to talk bull or shoot the breeze.

Participants could make a love story, comedy or tragedy, or an experimental or horror film.

"The requirements had to be something easy for participants to incorporate, and had to be representative of Beijing," says Peter Sallade, city producer for 48 Hour Film Project Beijing and chief volunteer of the New Beijing International Movie Festival.

Film on a d

Organizer

Outlet for independents

The 48 Hour Film Project was launched in May 2001 in Washington DC, US. Film director and producer Mark Ruppert came up with the crazy idea.

He enlisted his filmmaking partner Liz Langston and several other DC-area filmmakers to form teams and join in the experiment.

The big question was, would a film made in only 48 hours even be watchable? The answer, surprisingly, was yes.

More than 150 competitions have been held around the world since then. In 2008, over 30,000 filmmakers made films in 70 cities. The goal for this year is 80 cities, including Beijing.

Sallade says it was important for Beijing to join the project, as it presents a new opportunity for China's independent filmmakers. "After the competition, we will send the best films on to compete with other films from around the world," he says.

He has lived in Beijing more than three years and is devoted to the promotion of independent films. He says that while it continues to be an underground trade, "there is no reason these filmmakers cannot step into the light."

Although Beijing has festivals and exhibitions for independent films, "[these] are all in Songzhuang or Caochangdi. It's too far from downtown, and not many people can get a chance to see the films," he says.

Sallade says giving viewers easier access to screening venues is essential to helping independent filmmakers.

It is harder for independent filmmakers to survive in the US than in China, where "[they] are constantly threatened by Hollywood and other big studios," he says.

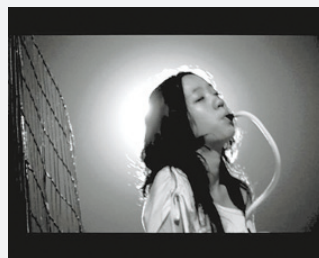
He criticized the recent *Transformers* movie, saying "the acting and writing are so bad. Hollywood needs to take a lesson from Chinese independent movies."

However, he chastised China's independent filmmakers for their whining. "They are like Wang Cailing in Gu Changwei's film *And the Spring Comes*," he says.

In the movie, Wang is a small-town vocal instructor with a magnificent voice and a big dream – to be an opera singer at the National Opera House. She struggles not only to realize her dream, but to get accepted and understood by society.

"They just want to go to the big city and fulfill their dream quickly," he says.

Sallade most appreciates Jia Zhangke, a leading independent director in the "Sixth Generation" movement of Chinese cinema. "I really hope to find the next Jia Zhangke, someone truly passionate about making films," he says.



Wang Bingqing's *Love at the Moment* is a love story about a woman wants her ex-boyfriend dead and gets his killer to do it for her out of love.



headline



Post of 48 Hour Film Project

Professional filmmakers Chance to hone skills

Although this was the first 48 Hour Film Project in Beijing, some of the participants' entries went far beyond Sallade's expectations.

Dong Chunze and his team shot *Family Together*, a seven-minute tragedy. In the film, a man travels to Beijing by train from a rural area to take a picture at Tian'anmen Square. He gives old family photos to someone and asks to have the members edited in beside him using Photoshop. He then burns the new photo to send it to his dead family members.

Sallade says it was a powerful and sad movie. "Many Western films are story-driven and are full of events and dialogue, but Chinese films are more abstract. They tell a story, but one more subtle and revealed by mood and emotion," he says.

Wang Di, director and project manager at a digital technology company, made the experimental *Don't Eat Fish Anymore* with his teams of 20.

They decided on a draft within four hours.

He compared the film to cubism in art and prose in literature. "It's not a narrative, but we hope each audience can take away something different from our film," he says.

The limited time was a great challenge for Wang and his team. "It was a good chance to practice brainstorming and technique. We found that the first idea to pop into our heads was the best," he says.

"If we attend the next 48 Hour Film Project, we will spend more time to write the storyboard," he says.



Broken Strings is a tragedy made by Liu Yang and his team, telling a musician turned to a deaf person.



Don't Eat Fish Anymore is an experimental film by Wang Di and his team.

Amateur filmmakers Wild but fun experience

The competition also brought together students of digital art and office workers.

Liu Yang, the account manger of a public relations company, heard about the competition online. "My work day is so boring, and it was a good chance to have fun with my friends over the weekend," he says. The amateur filmmaker chose to tell a tragedy. "Experimental films and comedies are hard to make, and it takes good lighting for a horror flick," he says.

His team of amateurs was excited and happy to work on a film. "We were late in our submission because we didn't manage our time well. But we felt it worth it to stay up the whole weekend and finish our piece," he says.

Wang Bingqing's team felt the same, but says they were unsatisfied with what they achieved in such a limited time.

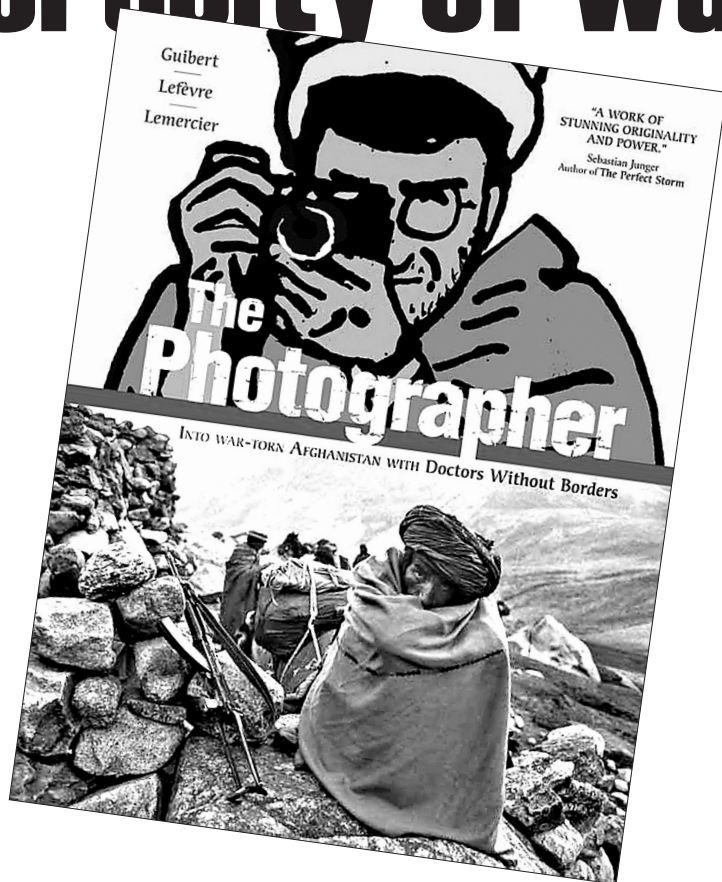
Wang's film was *Love at the Moment*, a love story about a woman wants her ex-boyfriend dead and gets his killer to do it for her out of love.

"Most of the scenes happened in the evening, so we were in a race against time," she says.

Although they were unsatisfied with their work, they learned a lesson from this first attempt: "A good story is half the battle," she says.

Photos provided by Wang Di, Liu Yang and Wang Bingqing

Photos tell of the cruelty of war



By Charles Zhu

There are millions of photography books and albums, but it is rare to see one that combines photography with drawings to serve a theme. *The Photographer: Into War-torn Afghanistan with Doctors Without Borders* (288pp, First Second, US \$29.95), by cartoonist Emmanuel Guibert, photojournalist Didier Lefèvre and graphic designer Frédéric Lemerrier, does just that.

The book was translated from French to English by Alexis Siegel. It is part photojournalism and part graphic memoir. The photographer, through his lens, retells the immoral, industrial slaughter that is war and shows the damages it inflicts on human bodies and souls.

Lefèvre joined Doctors Without Borders in 1986. He trekked through mountain paths with a caravan of horses and donkeys to Zaragandara, an Afghan town. There, the doctors set up a makeshift hospital at the peak of Soviet occupation. When he returned to France after bouts with disease and ill-treatment by police, he brought back 4,000 photographs. In the ensuing years, he returned to Afghanistan seven times before dying of a heart attack in 2007.

Guibert, the innovative cartoonist who has developed a new visual style, rendered Lefèvre's emotion-packed black-and-white photographs into comic form, filling in the gaps between photos with visual narratives that bind the collection into a story. His approach is rough and blurry, recollecting and reconstructing Lefèvre's experience into ink. The cartoonist has much greater power than the photographer over narrative and he makes many of the photographs all the more forceful, including a shot of a horse groom who had lost contact with his caravan and survived to tell his story of a life and death struggle.

This is a wonderful book on account of Lefèvre's experiences alone. His photos – many reprinted directly from his negatives – recount with power and momentum how he learned to pack stuffed, watertight boxes, dress like an Afghan and cross the border on a risky, off-road path. They show how he faced squarely the devastation of war and how a wounded child has her burns cleaned, Afghan soldiers laughed about their injuries and a local chief posed with a gun and some plastic flowers.

The photographer burst into tears when he saw a wounded 10-year-old girl who would never be able to walk again and would die of septic shock within six months.

In its final third, the book shows the photographer's disastrous solo journey back from Zaragandara as he was running out of film. Lefèvre and his horse, deserted by their escorts, trekked up a mountain in a blizzard as the sky darkened ominously. These are the last desperate series of symbolic shots of the horse on the verge of exhaustion and death; and the exotic Afghan landscape in the distance.

Reading outside the box

By He Jianwei

Reading may be important, but readers' time is limited and they can easily be lost among the thousands of new releases.

But Rex How, CEO of Locus Publishing, one of Taiwan's top publishers, says readers who forego a variety of books are missing one of the most interesting parts of the pastime: breaking down boundaries.

There are many authors who have tackled the tough topic of reading, but How's *Reading in the Internet Age* (265pp, People's Literature Press, 32 yuan) approaches it from the viewpoint of a reader.

The author grew up in South Korea, where few Chinese-language books were available. His own problem was finding a way past the limitations of language.

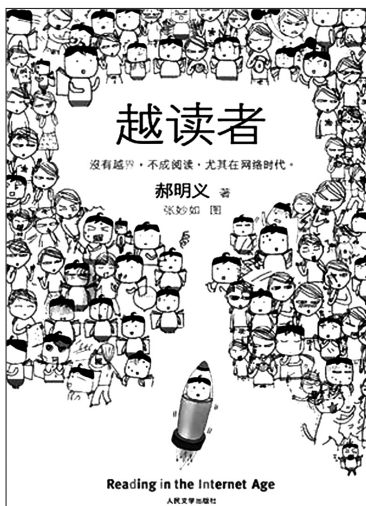
After he graduated from high school, he went to Taiwan to attend college, where he read everything he could. "But even when I looked at a full bookshelf, I felt empty."

As a publisher, he still does not have an answer to what reading is.

He compares readers today to primitive people who live in a world with innumerable resources but remain hungry.

There are several reasons people limit their reading, How says. A prominent one among students is the pressure of exams. Many students choose to read textbooks, if anything at all.

He cites the example of one college student who read day and night and talked little with classmates. When the student was accepted to a US school, she gave up reading because she thought she has fulfilled her parents' dreams.



Another common reason for passing on books is work. When people start a full-time job, they have less time to read and do not know what to read. Many choose books related to their work, since these offer practical application.

In this sense, reading outside the box is a risk. But books from different subjects can help readers to broaden their view, though this lacks the professional training one gets by focusing on a specific subject.

Reading is like a key to open a door for our life. He quoted one of his newspaper comics, "No matter where the readers get the knowledge from the books or the Internet, they will find another world behind the door."

The guide teaches more than how to read a book: it gives real lessons from which readers can learn what, how and why to read.

CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

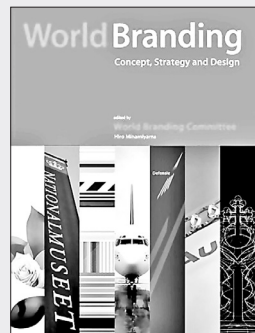
The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends these new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.



Sculpture Today

By Judith Collins, 464pp, Phaidon Press, 720 yuan

Over the past three decades, sculpture has reclaimed a position at the forefront of contemporary art, with artists redefining the medium in remarkable and revolutionary ways. This is the only book to provide a wide-ranging and richly illustrated overview of contemporary sculpture. Thematic chapters examine diverse subjects that have inspired sculptors in recent years, including the body, gravity, color, light, architecture and clothing. A range of works is discussed, offering insight into the incredible ideas, styles, materials, techniques and locations explored in the versatile genre.



World Branding: Concept, Strategy & Design

By World Branding Committee, 300pp, Gingko Press, 368 yuan

With an introductory essay on the role and philosophy of branding on the international stage, *World Branding* provides a step-by-step approach for the reader, breaking down the various examples by the elements that make up a brand and familiarizing the reader with contemporary terms and notions of identity. Through a series of case studies, *World Branding* illuminates prominent companies, institutions, organizations and governmental bodies, which exemplify successful brand strategies. In-depth and beautifully illustrated, this book is a must for any design or corporate library.



30,000 Years of Art

By Editors of Phaidon, 1,072pp, Phaidon Press, 550 yuan

This book offers a fresh perspective on art history, from 28,000 BC to the present day. It debunks art historical classifications and hierarchies by presenting 1,000 masterworks of art in simple chronological order, demonstrating what was being created all over the globe at the same time.

(By He Jianwei)

Born from a homemade toy

The first fingerboard was built in the late 1970s from cardboard, coffee stirrers and axels hacked off a Hot Wheels car. It appeared in the 1985 documentary *Future Primitive*, which shows the homemade fingerboard being ridden in a kitchen sink.

They evolved as a peripheral of the skateboarding industry after that, and were first mass produced and marketed in the 1980s as key chains in skate shops. In the decades since, Tech Deck, a leading manufacturer, began developing and mass producing new professional-grade miniature skateboards.

Fingerboards became popular outside the skating community in the late 1990s, and Tech Deck came to dominate the industry. The little toy became popular in Europe, and its product sales reached 820 million yuan in 1999.

The scene grew even faster in the US, where fingerboard manufacturers sponsored competitions.



By Wang Yu

Extreme sports remain a niche in China. With few ways to make a living at what they love, many of the country's best skateboarders have opened their own skate shops. The lucky ones earn extra by performing at commercial events.

But their passion for the board and the sport extends beyond the pavement and onto the desktop, where young skaters are discovering fingerboards: miniature skateboards controlled by two fingers instead of the legs.

While fingerboards may be a great way to dream up new tricks, they also serve another purpose: introducing more people to the skater lifestyle.

Late start in China

Although the miniature skateboards were imported by Chinese toy shops long ago, there were few Chinese fingerboarders before last year, when streaming Internet video introduced footage of foreign competitions.

"I had seen these little boards on television 10 years ago. The program was about a Chinese fingerboard collector and top-level skater," says Wu Congsi, a longtime skateboarder and student at South China Normal University.

His uncle who worked in a toy factory gave him some skateboard keychains, but the low-end toys could not hold up to Wu's intense training sessions.

It was not until his second year of high school that he rediscovered the little boards, this time in a shop opposite the school's gate. Its 15-yuan board was better than Wu's old keychains, though it was a far cry from anything professional.

"That board really brought me into the scene. I started looking for tutorial videos on the Internet, and [fingerboarding] turned out to be less easy than I imagined," Wu says. "Ollie," the most basic move, took him

weeks to master. He tried to disassemble and mod the board to improve its performance, but the toy just was not meant for it.

Wu found professional boards by chance. "These were for real fingerboarders and were made to be customized," Wu says. All the components were the same as what the big boards used, including wheels and axle made for different moves and surfaces. The top of the board was frosted to add friction.

"One time, my teacher caught me playing with the board in class. He called me to his office and I was preparing to get yelled at. I was surprised when I saw him playing with the board on top of his books. He told me I needed to oil the bearings. I think I saw joy on his face when his fingers were on my board," Wu says.

Taiyuan skater Geng Xing has been selling professional fingerboards like Tech Deck's at his skateshop since 2002, 10 years after he saw his first – a fingerboard ridden by a police officer, who was amazing enough to inspire Geng.

The officer has since been signed as a member of Geng's fingerboard team.

Tabletop X games find a new following

National team on the way

"People who have experience on a fingerboard can easily move up to a big board," Wu says. He has become very involved in the sport and practices every day.

To get more young people into the scene and expand his business, Geng expanded his skate shop onto Taobao.com. The associated QQ group is frequented by 400 avid fingerboarders from all over the country who trade videos of their own performances.

"It wasn't until 2006 that I saw anyone around me playing with fingerboards. Even three years later, I think the sport is only just beginning," Geng says. The growing fingerboard community gives him room to hold more events, like fingerboard competitions attached to skateboarding tours, though these were limited to Taiyuan due to money and the country's comparatively few fingerboarders.

Geng sponsors five of the fingerboard nuts in his online group, including Wu Congsi. Sponsored



skaters get access to top level equipment like desk barriers.

"One of them is voice dubber, and the other is the police officer who used to show off his skills in Geng's shop. Of course none of us can earn a living fingerboarding, but we are improving every day, and our performances get more people involved," Wu says.

"These guys are the best fingerboarders I have found in China, and many beginners are watching to learn from them," Geng says.

The team members will be brand ambassadors for Soldier Bar, an original fingerboard label under Geng's Fan Skateshop. The brand's name is pronounced sim-

ilar to *shouzhiban*, the Chinese translation of fingerboard.

Its new Web site is under construction, and most of the fingerboard components have already been produced. "All our boards are

made of maple. The first series, which has two types and 10 patterns, will be released within three months. They will be sold online in the Fan Skateshop, but I hope to get Soldier Bar boards into more stores in other cities," Geng says.

One of the patterns was designed by Wu, who is helping to promote the new brand online. "I don't care that much about making a profit at the start. I just want to bring professional gear to local fans," Geng says.

He hopes the Soldier Bar will show newcomers what a fingerboard is, after his team of performers shows what a fingerboard can be.



Photo provided by Geng Xing

1^{New}

The fun and fashionable side of sex shop

By Huang Xiao

Tucked in a small alley, the plain-named No. 18 store opened to help Beijingers improve their love lives.

Run by a passionate young couple who believes in the importance of physical love, No. 18 differs from other Beijing sex shops with its focus on the fun and fashionable side of the industry. Strongly influenced by the owners' sense of humor, the store is filled with revolutionary slogans and suggestive remarks to tease customers and bring out carnal desire.

One of the products on display is a "sex calendar" – a daily guide to the more exciting realm of physical pleasure for those who can overcome their initial embarrassment and purchase the book. Most of the sex toys, packed in see-through boxes, are arranged on wooden shelves.

The shop is divided into separate areas for men and women. The inner room, for women, is filled with sexy lingerie (150-200 yuan), fishnet body stockings and the condom-like Easy ONA-CAP Egg (129 yuan).

Standard condoms are also available, such as Japan-made Sagami Originals (25 yuan), only 20 microns thick yet three times as strong as latex condoms. They are also great for people allergic to latex.

No. 18 also sells "lamb eye rings," a sex toy that goes back to the Song Dynasty; references to it have been found in one of the country's most

famous ancient porn books.

For people who want a slower burn, the store offers a wide selection of Thai aromatherapy massage oils (69-89 yuan) and various kinds of incense (5 yuan), including lavender, lemongrass, rose and lotus.

The owners have also prepared wedding gift sets for people who want to their friends to have an unforgettably spicy honeymoon.

No.18 has become a quick favorite among Beijing's younger set. Some people come to browse, to learn and do a guessing game with some of the toys.



Sexy lingerie

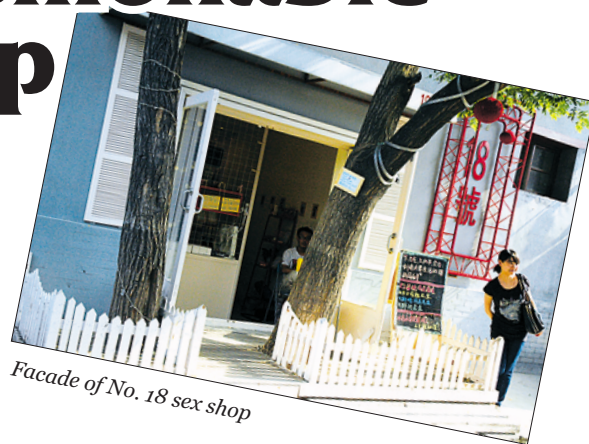


Products for sale

Photos by Huang Xiao

No. 18

Where: 18 Ju'er Hutong, Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng District
Open: 1-10 pm
Tel: 1391130 6739



Facade of No. 18 sex shop

A house for documentaries

By Huang Xiao

CNEX Salon Cafe, located in the city's new creative industry zone Image Base, brings a coffee shop, a documentary cinema and an art gallery under one roof. Image Base, a cluster of offices, studios and galleries transformed from textile factories and warehouses, was the response to complaints of 798 Art District's increasing commercialization.

CNEX is a contraction of "Chinese Next," which reflects its goal of finding a place among the country's new generation of documentary filmmakers.

It is a non-profit organization founded by a group of professionals from the mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong who wanted to promote China-related documentaries.

With large glass doors and windows, the coffee shop offers a relaxed and artistic ambiance for visitors who want to read, work on their laptop or look at photo exhibits while enjoying a sandwich and a cup of coffee. CNEX's screening room can seat around 20 people – an intimate setting to view films and afterwards discuss them.

CNEX screens documentaries from all over the world every week. Each is subtitled in English or Chinese if it was originally produced in another language. CNEX endeavors to bring to the house the directors of their feature films for a Q&A with the audience after the screening. This is a great new venue to meet independent filmmakers and artists.

For details on the screening schedule email snexsaloncafe@gmail.com or join the CNEX Facebook group, CNEX Salon Cafe, for updates.

CNEX Salon Cafe

Where: 2/F Building 1, Image Base, 3 Guangqu Dong Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: Daily except Mondays, 1:30-10 pm
Tel: 8721 5576



CNEX Salon Cafe

Photo by Huang Xiao

3 Safe and cheap DIY detergent

By Annie Wei

As summer heats up, clothes have to be washed at least once a day. The question is how can we be environmentally-friendly by using up so much detergent?

Using soap nuts and making your own 100 percent natural detergent are a way to be greener.

Soap nuts (soapberries) were widely used in the country before the 1950s to wash hair, hands, dishes and clothes. The nuts contain saponins, a natural surfactant.

Organic consumers in Beijing have started using them again for daily clothes and dishes washing.

Fiona Lee, a member of Beijing Organic Consumers Group, told *Beijing Today* how to use soapnuts at home: Just boil water in a saucepan and leave the soap nuts to soak overnight with a lid on. Use 10 nuts for each liter of water.

The next day, squeeze out the nuts as much as possible. Then warm the mixture or boil it, afterwards just leave it until it cools down. Before sieving out all bits of berries, squeeze them again to



Soap nuts

Homemade detergent

Photos by Lin Wei

extract as much saponin as possible, then put the cooled liquid into a container with a lid.

The liquid smells fine. Users said the laundry comes out soft and clean with a nice smell. There is no need to add white vinegar as softener. The liquid soap works better than nuts in a bag and is easy to use.

Using 100 milliliters of the liquid for a 5-kilogram load in a front loading washing machine.

To purchase soap nuts, search

for "wuhuanzi" on Taobao.com, where there are many vendors. Some sell soap nuts, soap-nut powder and other soap-nut products like shampoo and facial cleaners. Many vendors claim that soapnuts are used as a traditional medicine for minor skin issues and oily scalp.

Where to buy

Cost: 15 yuan for 500 grams, 6-10 yuan for shipping
Web site: Taobao.com

Spices on demand!

A guide to Indian dishes and restaurants in town

By Jin Zhu

Probably because India, like Sichuan Province, has a hot and humid climate, Indian cooking is also characterized by strong spicy flavors. Indian food is a good alternative for people who love Sichuan cuisine but are longing for variety.



Tandoori chicken, 48 yuan



Rasgulla, 22 yuan



Meat and vegetable samosa, 20-25 yuan



Masala tea, 20 yuan

Photos by Jin Zhu

Punjabi, the largest Indian restaurant chain in China, offers some of the most authentic Indian dishes – and atmosphere – in the city.

Colorful Indian pictures decorate the walls; dining tables come with shelves filled with bottles of various spices from the Indian subcontinent.

Aside from North Indian cuisine, Punjabi also serves South Indian and Indian-Chinese dishes, director Gireesh S Chowdhury said.

"All our chefs come from India because I believe only Indian chefs can make authentic Indian cuisine," he said. "To ensure the flavor of the dishes, all spices we use are shipped from India."

Samosa

Meat and vegetable samosa, fried triangular pastries with savory fillings, are staples in Indian restaurants worldwide.

"Indians consider dining an essential part of daily life. Most people dine in an atmosphere of enjoyment, instead of only satisfying a basic need. A meal can last a few hours, and generally, samosas appear at the beginning of a meal," Chowdhury said.

Vegetarians will love the vegetable samosa (20 yuan), which contains potatoes, onions and green chili. The non-vegetarian versions (25 yuan) contain meat or fish. All fillings are cooked in curry, a core ingredient in Indian cooking.

It is served with a choice of mint, coriander or tamarind chutney.

Tandoori chicken

As its name suggests, tandoori chicken (48 yuan) is cooked in a tandoor, a clay oven in which the skewered meat is suspended over charcoal.

"Unlike many kitchens that use gas-operated tandoors, our chef uses charcoal according to tradition to preserve the dish's authentic flavor," Chowdhury said.

Since the chicken meat is cooked without additional oil, weight-con-

scious customers do not need to worry about its fat content, he said.

Naan

This round, flat leavened bread is served hot and brushed with ghee or butter, or stuffed with filling. Indians also use it to scoop other food on their plate.

"One thing to remember when having a meal with an Indian: It is impolite to use the left hand to touch food," Chowdhury said.

Punjabi serves a variety of naan (15 yuan): butter naan, garlic naan, naan stuffed with fresh cottage cheese and naan stuffed with minced meat.

Rasgulla

Rasgulla (22 yuan) is a popular traditional Indian dessert prepared by kneading fresh cheese curds into small balls. The cheese balls are then boiled in a light sugar syrup until the syrup permeates the balls. It is served chilled.

Masala Tea

This is a traditional after-dinner beverage famed for its health benefits. It is prepared by mixing black tea with milk and aromatic herbs and spices.

"Black tea, such as Assam, is usually used as the base for its strong taste, which the sugar and spices cannot overpower," Chowdhury said.

Spices such as cardamom, cinnamon, ginger, star anise, peppercorn and cloves are added just before the tea-and-milk mixture comes to a boil.

"Since the spices are mostly 'warm,' they are good for keeping the stomach healthy, especially after eating spicy and dishes," he said. Punjabi's Masala tea costs 20 yuan.



Punjabi restaurant

Photo provided by Punjabi



Punjabi has four main chefs. Photo provided by Punjabi

A word from Punjabi's chef

Indian cuisine is known for its wide use of various curries. Different spices and condiments give it a distinct aroma.

Curries in Indian cooking generally fall under "heavy" and "light" taste. The first consists of yellow curry used with lamb bone; red curry with chicken meat and Masala curry with seafood. The second group is made up of green curry used with tofu and white curry with lamb.

Indian food goes well with wine or beer, which counter the dishes' heavy taste.

Punjabi restaurant

Where: 1-30 Lucky Street, Chaoyang
Gongyuan Xi Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 11 am – 1:30 pm
Tel: 5867 0221

Other Indian restaurants in town

Indian Kitchen

This is part of another restaurant chain whose Beijing branch is located close to the Sanlituan diplomatic compound. Indian Kitchen offers a lunch buffet from Monday to Friday.

Where: 2 Sanlitun Bei Xiaojie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm; 5:30-11 pm
Tel: 6462 7255

Cost: 42 yuan for the lunch buffet

Raj Indian Restaurant

This restaurant specializes in North Indian cuisine, which widely uses milk, ghee and yogurt.

Raj's customers can enjoy traditional Indian music and a view of a Beijing hutong from the restaurant's large rooftop.

Where: 31 Gulou Xi Dajie, Xicheng District

Open: 11 am – 2 pm; 5-11 pm

Tel: 6401 1675

Cost: 100-200 yuan per person

Tandoor Restaurant

Tandoor is famous for – what else – its tandoor dishes. Its lassi yoghurt drink is also a customer-favorite.

Where: 1/F Zhaolong Hotel, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm; 5:30-11 pm

Tel: 6597 2211

Cost: 100-200 yuan per person

Classical music in casual dress

By He Jianwei

London's Promenade Concert, established in 1895, is practically a British institution; its German counterpart is Berlin's 25-year-old Waldbühne Open-Air Concert. China lacks a similar music festival to celebrate classical music in a casual atmosphere.

Roam About the Classics, presented this month at the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA), hopes to fill the gap.

The six-day affair features three orchestras from home and abroad, which will perform more than 50 pieces from 40 composers.

"We will dress the classics in casual and handsome jeans, T-shirts and sports shoes instead of evening dress," Chen Zuohuang, NCPA's musical director, said.

Organizers made sure each orchestra's musical interpretation played up its strengths to make the classics more accessible to the layman.

Spain's Tenerife Symphony Orchestra opens the festival with music that reflects the Mediterranean sun, surf, romance and tranquility.

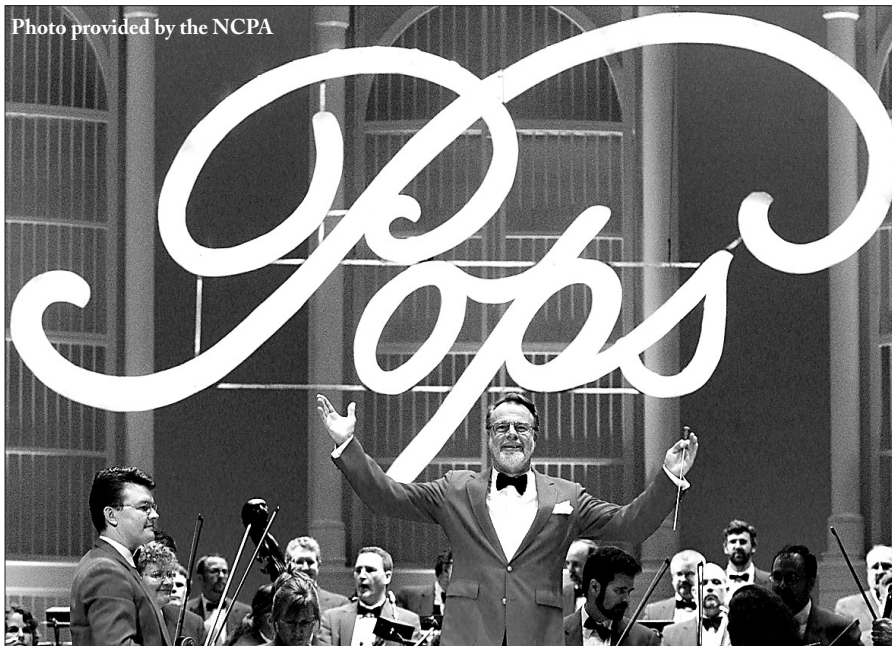
"Tenerife Symphony Orchestra's charm is that it plays serious and elegant music in the Mediterranean manner," Tang Ruofu, a music critic, said. "Even traditional German and Austrian works get a twist under its individualistic 'deconstruction' method."

The Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra takes the stage next under the baton of Chen Zuohuang and German conductor Christian Edward. Its performance

will mix British American, Hungarian, Czechoslovakian and Norwegian trends.

During the last two days, Erich Kunzel, hailed the Master of Movie Music, will conduct the China National Opera House Symphony Orchestra. Kunzel, the scorer for Oscar winners such as *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* and the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, is undoubtedly the best choice to lead a march of classical music into average people's homes.

Photo provided by the NCPA



6 Saturday, July 4

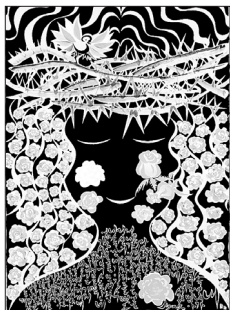
Exhibition In the Making – The mARkeT/Summer 2009

Where: Beijing Center for the Arts, 23 Qianmen Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until July 12, 10 am – 10 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6559 8008



Hu Ji-Yoon's Stride

Where: Gallery TN, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 30, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9550

Movie

Umbrella

Where: 5/F Wenjin Hotel, Tsinghua Science Park, Haidian District

When: 4:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6252 5566

Nightlife

Beyond, I Love You More in My Life

Where: Haoyun Bar, 1A Xingba Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 8448 3335

Say Goodbye

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 1:30 pm

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 6402 5080

5 Friday, July 3

Exhibition



Chinese Spirit – Master's Prints

Where: New Millennium Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 31, daily, 10 am – 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 4122

Ameise, Ameise – Wu Di Solo Exhibition

Wu's first solo exhibition presents more than 30 of her works created between 2003 and 2009. The artist's works are heavily influenced by the pain and anguish she sees in the world.

Where: PIFO New Art Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 4, daily except

Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9562

Movie

You Shoot

Where: MoBox Books Life, 288 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8261 8538

Nightlife

The Performance of Identity

Where: D22, 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 10 pm

Admission: 60 yuan

Tel: 6265 3177

Rock is Dangerous

Where: Star Live, 3/F, 79 Hepingli Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6425 5677

7 Sunday, July 5

Exhibition



ShanghART Artists Group Exhibition

Where: ShanghART Gallery, 261 Caochangdi, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 31, daily except

Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 3202

China Form

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwen District

When: Until July 26, daily, 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6525 1005

Movie

Madame Bovary

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 5 pm

Admission: 15 yuan

Tel: 8459 9269

Nightlife

Skate & Rock

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6402 5080

Summer Ballads Concert

Where: Jiangjinjiu bar, 2 Zhongku Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8405 0124

Upcoming

Nightlife

What Bar & MAO Livehouse

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: July 9, 8:30 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

Stage in August

Concert

Audio-visual Concert of Symphonic and Wind Music

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 1, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-100 yuan

Tel: 6605 7006

Violin and Piano Concert by Sheng Zhongguo and Seta Hiroko

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: August 3-4, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-100 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Italian Pianist Paolo Vergari

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: August 13, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-100 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Iberia – Guillermo Gonzalez Piano Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 23, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-480 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

The Rain of Flowers along the Silk Road

Who: Gansu Dance Drama and Opera Ensemble

Where: Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 1-2, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Onegin

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 19-22, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-500 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Prism – International Contemporary Dances

Where: People's Liberation Army Opera House, 60 Deshengmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng District

When: August 28-29, 7:30 pm

Admission: 60-580 yuan

Tel: 6673 6623

Opera

Ode to the Red Chinese Plum by the PLA Air Force Political Department's Art Troupe

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 7-9, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-480 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By Jackie Zhang)

Stay safe during summer storms

By Han Manman

Lightning striking people has often been seen as divine retribution for some ill deed. But being struck down is hardly enough evidence to label them an evildoer.

Summer is here, and this is the season when some people fall victim to the heavens' wrath.

Statistics from China Meteorological Administration show there were 974 lightning-related accidents in the first five months of the year. These resulted in 23 injuries and nine deaths.

But these low figures are no reason to slack off on prevention. Lightning activity peaks during the summer months, says Song Haiyan, director of Beijing Lightning avoidance Devices Examination Center.

Most instances of people being struck by lightning occur in open areas like sports fields, parks and golf courses, or while on the water or by running machinery, Song says. However, a small percentage of people are killed or injured by lightning even though they are indoors.

Indoor safety

Example:

This April, during a strong lightning and thunderstorm in Jimo, Shandong Province, 75-year-old Hu Zhongzheng lost consciousness.

When he came to, he found several of his electrical appliances were destroyed. He was not injured, but was very frightened.

Expert's view:

"We are seeing an increasing number of people injured indoors using a PSP or similar wired gaming device even though they knew to unplug their computers to prevent lightning damage," Song says.

Lightning typically enters homes and buildings by striking a nearby wire or pipe, through the ground or through an open door or window. Once in a structure, lightning can travel through the elec-

trical, phone and plumbing systems and through metal wires or bars in concrete walls or flooring.

Landline phone use is the leading cause of indoor lightning injuries. People have also been injured near radios and televisions which connect to an antenna system. Windows and doors provide a path for a direct strike to enter a home so stay away from these locations during thunderstorms and make sure that windows and doors are closed.

It is best to avoid washers and dryers because they connect with plumbing and electrical systems in your home. Bathtubs and shower stalls should also be avoided.

Lightning causes significant damage to personal property every year through direct strikes and power surges. Unplug appliances and electronic equipment before a thunderstorm approaches. Dis-

connect televisions and radios from outdoor antennas. If you plan to be away from your home when thunderstorms may occur, you should unplug any equipment in advance.

Safety tips for inside the home:

1. Avoid contact with landline phones, electrical equipment and plumbing.
2. Avoid contact with water by postponing your showers and laundry.
3. Stay away from windows, doors and porches.
4. Do not lie on concrete floors or lean against concrete walls.
5. Remember your pets. Doghouses are not lightning-safe. Dogs that are chained to trees or chained to wire runners can easily be killed by a lightning strike.

Outdoor safety

Example:

Lightning struck and killed a newlywed couple as they were climbing an undeveloped section of the Great Wall in Beijing earlier this month.

The force of the lightning strike caused the pair to fall from a 50-meter wall in Huairou District. Rescuers arrived two hours later, but the couple was already dead. Both husband and wife were 27.

Expert view:

"The outdoors is the most dangerous place to be during a lightning storm. When lightning is seen or thunder is heard, or when dark clouds can be seen, quickly move indoors or into a hard-topped vehicle and remain there until the storm ends," Song says.

He said a house or other substantial building offers the best protection from lightning. Metal gutters and downspouts, electrical wiring, plumbing and telephone lines all act as conductors to ground lightning.

Song says many small open shelters on athletic

fields, golf courses, parks, roadside picnic areas, schoolyards and elsewhere are designed to protect people from rain and sun, but not lightning. Small wood, vinyl or metal sheds should be avoided during thunderstorms.

Safety tips for outside:

1. Postpone activities immediately. Do not wait for rain. Many people take shelter from the rain, but most people struck by lightning are not in the rain. Go quickly inside a completely enclosed building, not a parking lot, open garage or covered patio. If no enclosed building is convenient, get inside a hard-topped, all-metal vehicle. A cave is a good option, but move as far as possible from the mouth.

2. Be the lowest point. Lightning hits the tallest object. In the mountains if you are above the tree line, you are the highest object around. Quickly get below tree line and get into a grove of small trees. Never be the second tallest object during a lightning

storm. Crouch down if you are in an exposed area.

3. Keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening skies, flashes of lightning, or increasing wind, which may be signs of an approaching thunderstorm.

4. Listen for the sound of thunder. If you can hear thunder, go to a safe shelter immediately.

5. If you cannot get to a shelter, at least stay away from trees. If there is no shelter, crouch in the open, keeping twice as far away from a tree as it is tall.

6. Avoid leaning against vehicles. Get off bicycles and motorcycles.

7. Get out of the water. It is a great conductor of electricity. Stay off the beach and out of small boats or canoes. If caught in a boat, crouch down in the center of the boat away from any metal edges or equipment. Swimming, wading, snorkeling and scuba diving are unsafe.

8. Move away from any group of people. Stay several yards from anyone else. Never share a bleacher bench or huddle in a group.

Helping someone who is struck by lightning

"About 90 percent of those struck by lightning survive, but are permanently affected by chronic pain and varying brain damage," Song says.

When someone is struck by lightning, call the 120 for emergency medical help.

If more than one person is struck, treat those who are unconscious first. They face the greatest risk of death. A person struck by lightning may appear dead, with no pulse or breath. Often the person can be revived with cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). There is no

danger to anyone helping a person who has been struck by lightning: the electric charge leaves the body immediately.

Treat those who are injured but conscious next. Common injuries from being struck by lightning are burns, wounds and fractures.

CFP Photo

Finding enlightenment on Bodhi Island

By Zhang Dongya

Summer resorts Beidaihe and Nandaihe in Hebei Province are crowded with people trying to find respite from the scorching heat. In recent years, another option for excursionists has been Bodhi Island. Thirty kilometers away from Beidaihe, it is the largest island in northern China and home to numerous species of coastal wildlife, particularly birds.

Different faces of Bodhi Island

Bodhi, located in Laoting county of Tangshan, Hebei Province, is the nearest major island to Beijing.

Around it are sandy hills that look like mortars, thus its previous name Mortar Island. It was renamed in 2000 after the forest of Bodhi trees found on it, and to honor its important role in the popularization of Buddhism. It is also called Joy Island, since *bodhi* in Buddhism means the final enlightenment that ends the cycle of life and rebirth.

With its large area, it is no wonder Bodhi has a collection of landscapes. The following nicknames should give travelers an idea of what they will find: Desert Island, Sea Island, Sandy Island, Big Island, Green Island, Bird Island, Sun Island and Buddhist Island.

Its northern part is marshy and relatively unexplored; it is wild and desolate, seemingly the only "forgotten place" on the island.

Some of the most popular activities on Bodhi are bird-watching, catching the sunrise and sunset, and visiting a temple by the sea.

Go deep in the forest to see the birds

Bodhi Island has more than 400 species of birds and has become an internationally renowned bird-watching site. It attracts bird lovers – cameras and telescopes in hand – from as far away as Denmark, Finland, Spain and Germany.

Even amateur bird-watchers are awed by the sight of the colorful birds perched on a tree or soaring in beautiful formation above the water – scenes

they had only seen in photographs.

The best period for bird-watching is from May to October, when birds stop over during migration. People usually try to spot the birds in the heart of the forest early in the morning or at dusk; the most beautiful ones often hide in the woods.

Bird-watchers need to tread carefully and observe quietly. Their best weapon is the camera, which captures moments that are gone too soon or images that are too far for the naked eye to see clearly.

Sail with the locals and catch the sunset

The main transportation around the island is motorboats, which can be seen floating side by side on the water. For daily use, locals use their smaller fishing boats. Fishermen are willing to ferry tourists for 200 yuan. The boats do not have an irritating diesel smell; passengers will only hear the motor's roar and feel the sea breeze.

City-dwellers should try to catch the sunset during a boat ride if they cannot wake up early enough to see the sunrise. At dusk, the sky becomes a canvas of red shades. Against this backdrop, the parked motorboats look like a fleet returning triumphantly from battle.

In the fishing season, fisherfolk work, eat and sleep on their boats. They are tanned and have deep wrinkles on their face from constant exposure to the sun and wind. They are friendly and will give visitors an insider's view of life on Bodhi Island.

Fisherfolk on the island are not as rich as their counterparts on the Shandong peninsula. They live in cottages with a small yard; two-story buildings are a rare sight.

Continued on page 21...



Bodhi Island in recent years became an alternative summer resort to Beidaihe and Nandaihe.



The different faces of Bodhi will excite travelers.



Visitors need to go deep in the forest to see the island's birds.



Motorboats viewed against the setting sun is a splendid sight on Bodhi Island.

Photos by Li Ying

... continued from page 20



Chaoyin Temple features statues of 18 arhats.



Vast areas of colorful reeds present a beautiful picture.



Sailing with the locals is an unforgettable experience.

Discover Ming architecture at the temple

China has several small, seaside temples called *chaoyin*, which means “the sound of the tide.” One of the most famous is in Tanggu, Tianjin, rebuilt by Emperor Jiajing in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

Chaoyin Temple on Bodhi Island was built by the monk Faben in 1889, in late Qing Dynasty. The construction of the temple took 44 years.

It is the largest temple in Bohai; it has three halls that have been preserved. The front hall is Jingang Hall, which has a tablet inscribed with “Dahai Chaoyin,” or “the sound of the tide at sea.” The middle hall is called Tianwang, meaning “the king is seated inside the hall.” Outside it are images of 18 arhats, Buddhists who have

reached enlightenment.

The back hall features wall carvings as of 500 arhats. Since the Qing tradition regarded the left side of a hall as more important than the right, 251 arhats can be found on the left and 249 on the right. On both sides of the hall are eight rooms for monks and six side halls in which they read scripture, received visitors, prepared food and took a bath. Visitors can still see monks on the island and hear the ringing of temple bells.

During the Cultural Revolution and the 1976 Tangshan Earthquake, some parts of the temple were destroyed.

Visit the Bodhi trees and reeds

One of Bodhi’s most splendid sights, yet largely ignored by people, are the forests of

Bodhi trees and reeds.

About 99 percent of the island is covered with vegetation, the majority of which is Bodhi trees. Some of the trees are very old, with stocky trunks and huge crowns. The forest is shady and cool, ideal for a morning or an afternoon walk, with rays of sunshine peeping through gaps in the trees.

It is said that Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism later known as Gautama Buddha, achieved enlightenment under a Bodhi tree.

The vast areas of reeds also present a beautiful picture. In summer, they are green or yellow; they are most beautiful in autumn when they become a palette of color: red, yellow, purple, green and grey. Check out the northern part of the island for the most colorful reeds.

Appreciate the relatively undeveloped island

People who visited Bodhi this year complained of construction work around the island. The local government is reportedly building a resort that contains villas.

A road around the island has been built, and new street lamps have been installed. More wooden guesthouses have been constructed for foreign tourists.

People are worried that the island’s rapid commercialization will destroy its rich ecosystem. Development might bring the island more amenities, but this might also translate into artificial sceneries. While its fate hangs in the balance, nature lovers are advised to see Bodhi Island in its current, natural state.

Travel Information

Transportation

Drive along Jingshen Expressway up to the Tangshan-Tianjin Expressway Exit, then go south on Tanggang Expressway. At the Laoting Exit, head southwest via Laoting county. Transfer to a wooden boat or a motorboat to reach Bodhi Island. On the island, visitors can go sightseeing on a truck or a bicycle.

Accommodation

Visitors can stay in wood cabins, yurts or tents. A two-bed cabin costs about 200 yuan. Travelers can also choose to live with locals, which costs 30 yuan a night per person.

Wooden houses are partly hidden by Bodhi trees and reeds.

Photos by Li Ying

Dining

1. 2009 Beijing Summertime Beer Festival

The 2009 Beijing Summertime Beer Festival begins tonight at the Solana Shopping Mall. The event is organized by the Beijing Chaoyang District Bureau of Commerce with support from the Red Cross Society of China.

Besides tasting 30 brands of beers and enjoying a variety of foods, visitors can participate in a raffle, break dancing competition, and golf, and darts.

All income from the charity bazaar, which coincides with the festival's opening ceremony from 7 to 9 pm, will be donated to the Chinese Red Cross Foundation. An addition 1 yuan will be donated to the Red Cross Foundation Solana Foundation for every bottle of beer sold during the festival. Donations support the Red Cross Society's educational programs.

Where: Central Plaza, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 30, 5-10 pm (Monday – Thursday); 3-10 pm (Friday – Sunday)

Tel: 5905 6668

2. Shroomy promotion

Mushroom dishes hide the highest nutrition for the body. Hanmeifang's seasoned chef select a variety of fungi for guests' meals. The mushroom dishes are sure to be the star of every meal.

Where: Hanmeifang Chinese Restaurant, Zhaolong Hotel, 2 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Cost: 88 yuan, 158 yuan

Tel: 6597 2299 ext. 0215

3. Asian experience

Enjoy exotic and authentic Asian street treats with flavors from Mumbai to Tokyo, Bangkok, Hong Kong and everywhere in between. Take advantage of the Hawka Passport to experience them all for one price.

Keep your passport for return trips. Once your passport is full, you will receive a complementary trip! Apart from the food, take advantage of Hawka's range of ice cold beers from the Asia-Pacific region.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

tage of Hawka's range of ice cold beers from the Asia-Pacific region.

Where: Hawka, Beijing Marriott Hotel City Wall, 7 Jianguomen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

Cost: 138 yuan, subject to 15 percent service charge
Tel: 5811 8266

4. Enjoy gourmet teas

Come and experience a unique herbal tea selection at the elegant and stylish Vous Lobby lounge. The lounge offers tea lovers fresh seasonal teas with abundant flavor and intoxicating aromas guaranteed to delight. Whether you enjoy a whimsical blend or serious single origin varieties, the choices abound.

When: 10:30 am – 11 pm; live performance at 6-10 pm (Monday – Friday), 2-10 pm (Saturday and Sunday)

Where: Vous Lobby Lounge, Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Cost: 80 yuan per person, includes delicious Lenotre cookies (subject to 15 percent surcharge)
Tel: 8599 6666

5. Iced coffee

Do not miss this wide selection of Icy Mocha, including Icy Chocolate Mocha, Icy Mango Coconut Mocha and Icy Cookies Milk Mocha: a cool icy treat to escape the summer heat.

The relaxing atmosphere is there from early in the morning, when smooth-tasting coffee is served, until late at night, when the Gloria Plaza breaks out its specialty cocktails.

When: before August 31

Where: Gloria Plaza Hotel Beijing, 2 Jianguomen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang District

Cost: 39 yuan (subject to 15 percent surcharge)
Tel: 6515 8855 ext. 2157

6. High tea

Sneak out of work for a weekday high tea rendezvous. Raffles offers peppered tuna sashimi with asparagus, scones with jam and double cream, green tea mascarpone cream cakes and wicked chocolate fondue.

Where: Raffles Beijing Hotel, 33 Dongchang'an Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 2:30-5:30 pm (Monday-Saturday)

Cost: 198 yuan for two people (Monday-Friday), 328 yuan per person including free-flowing champagne (Saturday)

Tel: 6526 3388 ext. 4181

Hotel



Pay for one night, unwind for two

The Hilton Beijing encourages you to treat yourself to a vacation at double the value with its Two-for-One Holiday Sale. The offer is good for bookings through July 31 and is valid for stays any day of the week through August 31. To add even more value, stay on a weekend and the offer includes a lazy breakfast until 11 am, late check out until 6 pm and free children's stay and food.

Where: Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5865 5020

2009 International Five Star Diamond Award

The new Hilton Beijing Wangfujing won the prestigious 2009 International Five Star Diamond Award. The award was presented by Joseph Cinque, president of the academy, to Nils-Arne Schroeder, general manager of the Hilton Beijing Wangfujing, at a ceremony attended by five Three-Star Michelin Chefs and Celebrity Chefs.

Bestowed by The American Academy of Hospitality Sciences based in New York, the highly regarded award is given for its recipient's commitment to excellence in luxury and service, with in-depth evaluations conducted on service delivery, facilities, ambience, attitude, cuisine and hospitality standards.

Business Hotel Top Ten

The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel Beijing received the Hotels China Award 2009 as one of the top 10 business hotels during an awards presentation at the Beijing Marriott Hotel City Wall. The Hotel China Award, started five years ago, is organized by the Chinese edition of *US Hotels* magazine.

Tourism

Play in Hutongs

Wander the *hutong* and discover the Beijing Masters' lifestyle. See the homes of famous artists and learn how the capital developed such a relaxed pace of life.

90 Percent Travel offers a bicycle (save 20 yuan with your own bike), English speaking guide, chances to see folk art masters, one bottle of water, an old Beijing tea break and traveler's insurance.

When: July 4

Cost: 190 yuan each (20 percent off for US citizens)

Tel: 15117916648

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

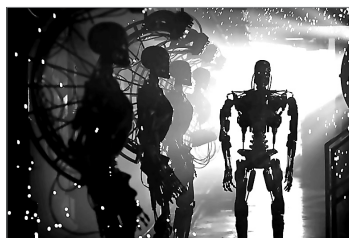
Deceptive forces return to Earth on a mission to take Sam Witwicky prisoner, after the young hero learns the truth about the ancient origins of the Transformers. Joining the mission to protect humankind is Optimus Prime, who forms an alliance with international armies for a second epic battle.

Terminator Salvation

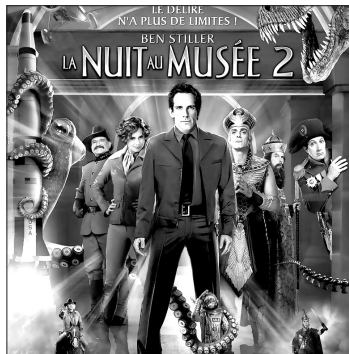
After Skynet has destroyed much of humanity in a nuclear holocaust, a group of survivors led by John Connor struggles to keep the machines from finishing the job.

Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian

Security guard Larry Daley infiltrates the Smithsonian Institute to rescue Jedediah and Octavius, who have been shipped to the museum by mistake.



Terminator Salvation



Night at the Museum

Theaters:

Stellar International Cineplex
Where: 5/F Jinyuan Shopping Center, 1 Yuanda Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 8886 4988
Where: 4/F Wangjing International Business Center, 9 Wangjing Jie, Chaoyang District
Tel: 5920 3788

UME International Cineplex
Where: 44 Kexueyuan Nan Lu, Haidian District
Tel: 8211 5566

Where: 5/F Fuli Plaza, Shuangjing Qiao Bei, Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 5903 7171

Imegabox
Where: F3 Jinlehu, Zhongguancun Plaza Shopping Center, Haidian District
Tel: 5986 3777

Where: F1 Sanlitun Village, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6417 6118

Wanda International Cinema
Where: Wanda International Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 5960 3399

(By Sun Feng)

Cinema

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Toilet signs for college men

By Zhang Dongya

College was an amazing time in my life, filled with fond memories of crazy incidents. One of my oddest experiences happened during the year I lived in the men's dormitory – and used its toilet.

Four years ago, I was ecstatic to receive the admission letter that said I would get to study English at one of the country's top universities. But my spirits fell when I learned that the new batch of students were to attend classes on a new campus, a more spacious location in the suburbs.

Though construction of the “university city” was already three years underway, we still walked into a huge construction site: heavy machinery, construction materials and workers were everywhere.

The good thing was that everything there was new: the classrooms, dormitories and furniture. But before we could get used to the shiny, formaldehyde-smelling furniture, the dormitory for female English majors was found to have serious problems; we lost electricity or running water every other day.

The university maintenance office discovered they needed months to fix the problem and we were moved to the only space available: a men's dorm opposite our building, which had toilets designed especially for men.

The most novel thing for us were the urinals and the signs above them in Chinese: “A small step forward, a giant step for civilization.” These were reminiscent of US astronaut Neil Armstrong's words upon landing on the moon: “That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

I suddenly thought of translating the sign into English to leave a mark to show English majors lived in the building. It was mostly for fun, since no men lived in the building. My roommates agreed with my plan and we began compiling a list of possible translations.

We ended up with three versions: one in standard English, another in Chinglish (a literal translation) and a “creative” version. Because we could not narrow down our choice, we decided to use them all – one unique sign on each of the building's six floors.

Our signs generated some heated discussion. Thankfully, we were able to persuade the dorm cleaners to let us keep the signs, claiming the English translations were a sign of “civilized” behavior. I think this was one of my biggest contributions to my alma mater because male students moved back in the following year.

The sign on the first floor integrated Armstrong's famous words: “That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for civilization.” On the second floor, it said, “A little closer to the urinal, a lot closer to civilization.” And on the sixth floor where we lived, my roommates and I chose the shortest but most powerful one: “Be a gentleman!”



Photo by Peter Wu

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

We declined to bring your own drinks

By Tiffany Tan

I took a second look at this sign after my Chinese language classmate, an English language teacher from the US, pointed it out, snickering, to another American classmate. We were ravenous, waiting for lunch to be served at a Sichuan restaurant, so the thought of the place refusing to serve us what we ordered was almost hilarious.

Although it sounds like the restaurant would rather not serve its customers, it is actually saying, “No outside drinks allowed.” Come to think of it, how about food? Is outside food okay? It is probably aimed at diners who plan to get happy on cheaper liquor from neighboring stores. The sign's Chinese version, as often is the case, has a softer tone: We politely prohibit outside drinks.

The restaurant is only about 200 meters away

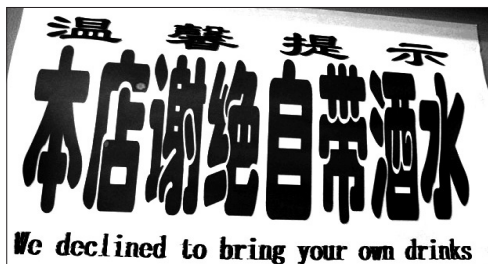


Photo by Tiffany Tan

from the Silk Market, so the management may want to fix the sign for the many foreign tourists that surely come their way. On second thought, maybe the Chinglish sign is a marketing ploy in these difficult economic times.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida**1. The Palace of Song Meiling**

This English rendering of a Chinese name is an injustice to a famous historical figure. Readers might ask, Who is Song Meiling and why does he/she have a palace? The writer is actually referring to Soong Mei-ling, the wife of Chiang Kai-shek. Because the Soongs were an esteemed family in the first half of the 20th century, members had a unique, hyphenated way of writing their name in English – which have been accepted by historians. The family's second daughter was called Madame Soong Ching-ling, who had a wealth of English writings attributed to her under this spelling. The example above reminds me of a mistake in the reverse: A Tsinghua history professor once translated “Chiang Kai-shek” into Chinese based on how it sounded – and nobody recognized the name.

2. Premier

Some students are bound to be confused with the difference between “premier” and “premiere.” Premier as a noun means “prime minister” or “chief officer”; as an adjective it means “first in rank or importance,” for instance, “premier products.” When you refer to the first day of a play or a concert, you're talking about a premiere or *première* a French word adopted in English. “Premiere” can be used as a transitive or an intransitive verb. As an intransitive verb: The new movie is premiering this month. As a transitive verb: The romantic opera *Louis* was premiered in 1900. But you definitely cannot say: The Berlin Philharmonic will hold its premier on Sunday.

3. They would soon be able to go back to play the same game as before.

Can you tell what is wrong here? “To go back to” is a set phrase, meaning “to return to normal,” so the verb “to play” cannot be used as an infinitive. It can only be used as a gerund, which becomes the object of “to go back to.” The right way of saying it would be this: They would soon be able to go back to playing the same game as before. Another example: They finally went back to building the house according to the original blueprint. Take note of the gerund “building.” It means that though they have revised the blueprint time and again, in the end they returned to the first one.

Native speaker: Penny Turner**1. The Palace of Song Meiling**

The confusion arises from the fact that before pinyin was officially adopted in 1979, Chinese characters were romanized using the Wade-Giles system. It was introduced in the mid-19th century by British diplomat and Sinologist Sir Thomas Francis Wade and was completed in 1912 by Cambridge professor Herbert Allen Giles – thus its name. It became the preferred Chinese transliteration system among academics. Many Taiwanese and overseas Chinese from the South or who emigrated before 1949 write their names in Wade-Giles; famous personalities such as Chiang Kai-shek have kept this version of their name's spelling, otherwise how many people would make the connection with its pinyin version “Jiang Jieshi”?

2. Premier

The professor covered all the salient points in distinguishing “premier” from “premiere.” Our readers may still be reeling from all this information, but I need to add that “premiere” is also a variation of the adjective “premier.” Thus, premiere also means first in status or importance; first to occur or exist.

3. They would soon be able to go back to play the game as before.

I agree that “to play” should be changed into “playing,” but I would drop “same” beside “game” to eliminate redundancy. Playing the game “as before” implies they would be playing the same game: they would play the game like they did in the past. The sentence would then be rewritten as: They would soon be able to go back to playing the game as before.

Movie of the week

Genre fans might pass up this movie as another boring, cliché flick with nothing but the Hollywood mode of “true love.” But big names like Scarlett Johansson, Jennifer Aniston, Drew Barrymore, Jennifer Connelly and Ben Affleck are sure to pull viewers into the cinema.

The movie is based on Greg Behrendt's book by the same title. The premise is to educate women that men are dishonest jerks who seek to take advantage of them or break their hearts. Somehow, Behrendt managed to not only make a killing with his mind-numbing book, but also to capitalize on it by bringing it to the big screen to challenge the male viewer's patience.

Women, of course, love it.

Synopsis

Gigi, a young woman, attempts to understand the mixed signals she gets from the men she is dating. She gets advice from a bar owner who prides himself on understanding the ins and outs of the dating scene. Gigi's co-worker Janine finds herself involved in a major redecorating project with her husband Ben. Unbeknownst to Janine, Ben contemplates an affair with Anna, an attractive woman trying to make a career as a singer. Another of Gigi's friends at work, Beth, enjoys a successful, healthy relationship with Neil, but storm clouds hover over them as he has no interest in getting married.

He's Just Not That Into You (2009)



Scene 1

(Gigi comes to Alex's bar hoping to find out Conor's situation.)

Alex (A): What can I get you?

Gigi (G): Oh, no, I'm meeting someone.

A: Oh yeah? What, you got a hot date?

G: I don't know if you'd call it “hot.” This guy Conor and I have only been out one time ...

A: Wait, wait, wait. Conor Barry?

G: Yeah.

A: Conor's not coming in tonight. Did he forget he was supposed to meet you here?

G: Oh, see, when I said “meeting someone,” I guess it was kind of a broad term (1), a wide interpretation of the word “meeting.”

A: Right. You know what? I'll call him.

G: Oh, no. I mean, just totally unnecessary. I just was actually in the area (2) ... and so I just figured I'd swing by (3) and see if he was around. Because I had to return his pen ... Had to return this pen. He left this ... And I just thought I should really return it before he, you know, freaks out (4).

A: Yeah. Okay, I'll get it to him.

G: Thanks.

A: “Wilson Ward, DDS, child, Adult and Geriatric Dentistry.”

G: Look, I'm not going to judge what may or may not be important to someone.

A: Yeah. That's not even his dentist, though.

G: Oh, really. Who is?

A: My dad.

Scene 2

(After talking with Alex the first time, Gigi turns to her colleagues Beth and Janine for help.)

Beth (B): Everything okay?

G: Oh, I was up all night.

Janine (J): Please say you were working on the nutmeg copy.

G: Sure. It's basically done. I have to tell you something important.

J: Sweetie? What's going on with your hair?

B: Yeah, come here before people see you have a mini muffin in your hair.

G: Okay. So ... Thank you. I think I fig-

ured it out. Remember that notary public who cheated on me? Then Anastasia told me her boyfriend cheated on her at the beginning ... but then he changed and now they're married and crazy in love?

B: I thought that guy was a process server.

G: No, notary. Anyway, my point is, Anastasia's the exception, not the rule. We have to stop listening to these stories. The rule is that guys who cheat on you don't care about you much.

J: Okay.

G: Okay, so Exhibit A: Chad, the drummer who lived in a storage space. He only used me for rides, and yet I continued to stalk him for most of 1998. And then ... oh, there was Don ... who broke up with me every Friday so that he could have his weekends free. I was delusional (5) about that relationship. I'd refer to him as my husband to my dental hygienist. And all of my friends used to tell me stories about how things might work out with these dip shits because they knew someone who dated a dip shit like mine and that girl ended up getting married. But that's the exception. We're not the exception, we're the rule.

Scene 3

(In the end of the story, everyone find his or her love or is lost again.)

G: Girls are taught a lot of stuff growing up: If a guy punches you, he likes you. Never try to trim your own bangs (6). And someday you will meet a wonderful guy and get your very own happy ending. Every movie we see, every story we're told implores us to wait for it.

The third act twist: The unexpected declaration of love. The exception to the rule.

But sometimes we're so focused on finding our happy endings, we don't learn how to read the signs. How to tell the ones who want us from the ones who don't. The ones who will stay from the ones who will leave.

And maybe this happy ending doesn't include a wonderful guy. Maybe it's you ... on your own ... picking up the pieces and starting over. Freeing yourself up for something better in the future. Maybe the happy ending is just ... moving on.

Vocabulary

1. broad term: a broad explanation

2. in the area: here it means nearby

3. swing by: to make a brief visit

4. freak out: to become very angry or lose control

5. be delusional: to believe something when all evidence points to the contrary

6. bangs: a fringe of hair cut short and straight across the forehead

(By Wang Yu)

